

## Operation Universe

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| Character:       | <a href="#">Zim (Invader Zim)</a> , <a href="#">The Almighty Tallest</a> , <a href="#">GIR (Invader Zim)</a> , <a href="#">Garnet (Steven Universe)</a> , <a href="#">Amethyst (Steven Universe)</a> , <a href="#">Pearl (Steven Universe)</a> , <a href="#">Greg Universe</a> , <a href="#">Steven Universe</a> , <a href="#">Tak (Invader Zim)</a> , <a href="#">MiMi (Invader Zim)</a> , <a href="#">Control Brains</a> , <a href="#">Invader Skoodge</a> , <a href="#">Invader Tenn</a> , <a href="#">Minimoose (Invader Zim)</a> , <a href="#">Connie Maheswaran</a> , <a href="#">Lapis Lazuli (Steven Universe)</a> , <a href="#">Peridot (Steven Universe)</a> , <a href="#">Jasper (Steven Universe)</a> |
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## Operation Universe

by [GlovedOne](#)

### Summary

Operation Impending Doom! A plan for galactic Irken conquest, devised by the Almighty Tallest! And singlehandedly ruined by Zim. During the second attempt, Zim is sent far away to a "mystery planet", ensuring he won't ruin things. After a six month long trip, he's unexpectedly pulled off course and makes an accidental rough landing on the planet Earth. The abandoned Gem colony. Where the Rebellion was formed! Remaining Gems still defend the Earth from countless threats! Threats like Zim.

### Notes

And so it begins! I've been working on this story for two years now, I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I enjoyed writing it! Zim is so much fun to write for, I swear.

# Chapter 1

## Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for [notes](#)

### **Log Entry #1. Invader Zim reporting.**

I've been assigned by the Almighty Tallest a top secret mission. Everything has gone wrong since the Great Assigning. Whoever finds themselves reading this is most likely aware that Operation Impending Doom was a failure. A horrible failure, and it was all my fault. Not even putting the fires out would convince the Tallest to let me stick around.

They banished me to Foodcourtia, but finding out about Operation Impending Doom 2 encouraged me to finally escape that horrible planet. All I ever wanted was to prove that I could be of service to the Irken Empire. Nothing made me happier than when the Tallest finally saw how deserving I was on Conventia. They assigned me to invade a planet so mysterious that those who have heard of it dare not speak its name! Shortly afterwards, I received a Standard-issue Information Retrieval Unit and took off in my Voot Cruiser.

Month after month of enduring horrible singing (my robot slave likes singing) was simply awful. I wouldn't have come out of that mess with my sanity intact if not for my navigational system informing me that we arrived at our destination. But then I flew straight into an asteroid and that's when everything went wrong.

My ship crashed and the first thing I saw was a strange temple. I've been here on this beach for only a few short minutes. I'll have to find a place to rest for the time being even if sleeping is frowned upon. Wait, I have a visual.

...

Invader Zim, signing off.

### **Log Entry #2. Invader Zim reporting.**

I despise this pitiful speck of a planet. There are Gems living here! Records indicate these rebels were all wiped out ages ago but apparently they're here. On Earth. Yes, Earth. They discovered my ship before I could make repairs.

I attempted to show them the meaning of... superior being. Unfortunately things didn't go so well and they somehow managed to defeat me with their primitive weapons. Even worse is that they've imprisoned me. They don't know how lucky they are to have defeated me in my weakened condition.

Now let's discuss the "Crystal Gems" as they prefer to be called. They don't take kindly to being called "Gem scum."

The tall one appears to be their leader. That makes perfect sense. She's rather straightforward and her word is final, the reason I'm not dead. Her name is Garnet.

The purple one is loud and rude. She also happens to be the shortest, around my height. Maybe a little taller. That accursed whip she carries around must be destroyed. Her name is Amethyst.

And then we have the pointy-nosed one. It's her I hate the most. Believing that Irkens are inferior to Gems. Calling us mindless animals. I'm zealously overconfident according to Pearl, but what does she know? Nothing more than an overly emotional defective who cries at the mention of a Gem named Rose Quartz. I don't even know who that is, but one of the natives mentioned her and I saw her tear up a little bit.

The native knows how to speak basic. He's rather unimpressive. His name is Greg and he appears to be afraid of me. The only reason I've been able to type this log entry is because the Crystal Gems left to go do something. I need to contact the Almighty Tallest! They'll know what to do!

...

Invader Zim, signing off.

### **Log Entry #3. Invader Zim reporting.**

The Almighty Tallest have been made aware of my predicament and reinforcements are on their way. Tallest Red and Purple must've been worried sick about where I've been all this time! They just left for vacation and won't be able to answer any of my calls.

Well that's just fine because this puny planet will be mine before the armada even gets here! Earth stands no chance against a mighty soldier with my superior training. The biggest threat to my mission would have to be the Crystal Gems. Getting them out of the way is the key to my victory.

Our people haven't come into contact with Gems for a number of years and we don't know how powerful their empire must be. Wait, of course! That's why Tallest Red and Purple assigned me this mission! They must've known this would happen! I have to both prepare this planet for conquest and gather information on Gems. My Tallest entrusted me with such an important mission... and that's why I can't let them down.

My plan is ingenious, there's no chance of failure! Phase one involves convincing the Crystal Gems to repair my ship. I don't know what phase two entails, or three or any of the others but rest assured this planet will be ripe for the impending invasion.

Now, time to talk about my greatest enemies. They seem to be concerned about someone named "Steven." Is he their leader and not Garnet? Is he the champion of this planet? Greg also seems to be concerned and brought him up when talking about Rose Quartz. They don't want me anywhere near him, perhaps they're afraid he'll lose in a fight against me!

To be fair, I'm not about to challenge anyone to a fight. I don't even know what happened to GIR after the Voot Cruiser crash-landed, I need to find that robot! He's important to the mission. Now I should probably head back out before someone opens the door, or Amethyst breaks it down. After all, I have been in Greg's wheeled vehicle for the past ten minutes.

...

Invader Zim, signing off.

#### **Log Entry #4. Invader Zim reporting.**

The mission goes well. You'll never believe what I've just discovered... Steven is a human-alien hybrid. The offspring of Greg Universe and Rose Quartz.

Disgusting! How could they possibly reproduce? Humans are such filthy creatures. And these Gem rebels must be even more low-class than I thought. Well, Pearl has agreed to assist me in repairing my ship. I made up some story about being an outcast, on the run from a mighty empire.



Little do they know, I'm an Invader! Of the Irken Empire!

These Gems are so old that the Irken Empire didn't even exist back in their day. Oh, and Pearl wants to revisit the wonders of the cosmos. What's the harm in taking her up to space? As long as it's for the sake of the mission? Can't get on my nerves more than the Doom Song.

Speaking of which, I located GIR and he was wreaking havoc at an amusement park. Something must be done about him. That insane little robot could be the end of me! Almighty Tallest Purple told me that he's advanced, but so far nothing indicates this.

When I picked up GIR from Beach City Funland, I tried installing a new guidance chip. But he threw it out to make room for some stupid cupcake! I tried using a compass to get back, it didn't work. Using the sun was a complete failure. I WENT BLIND! But only temporarily, I can see now.

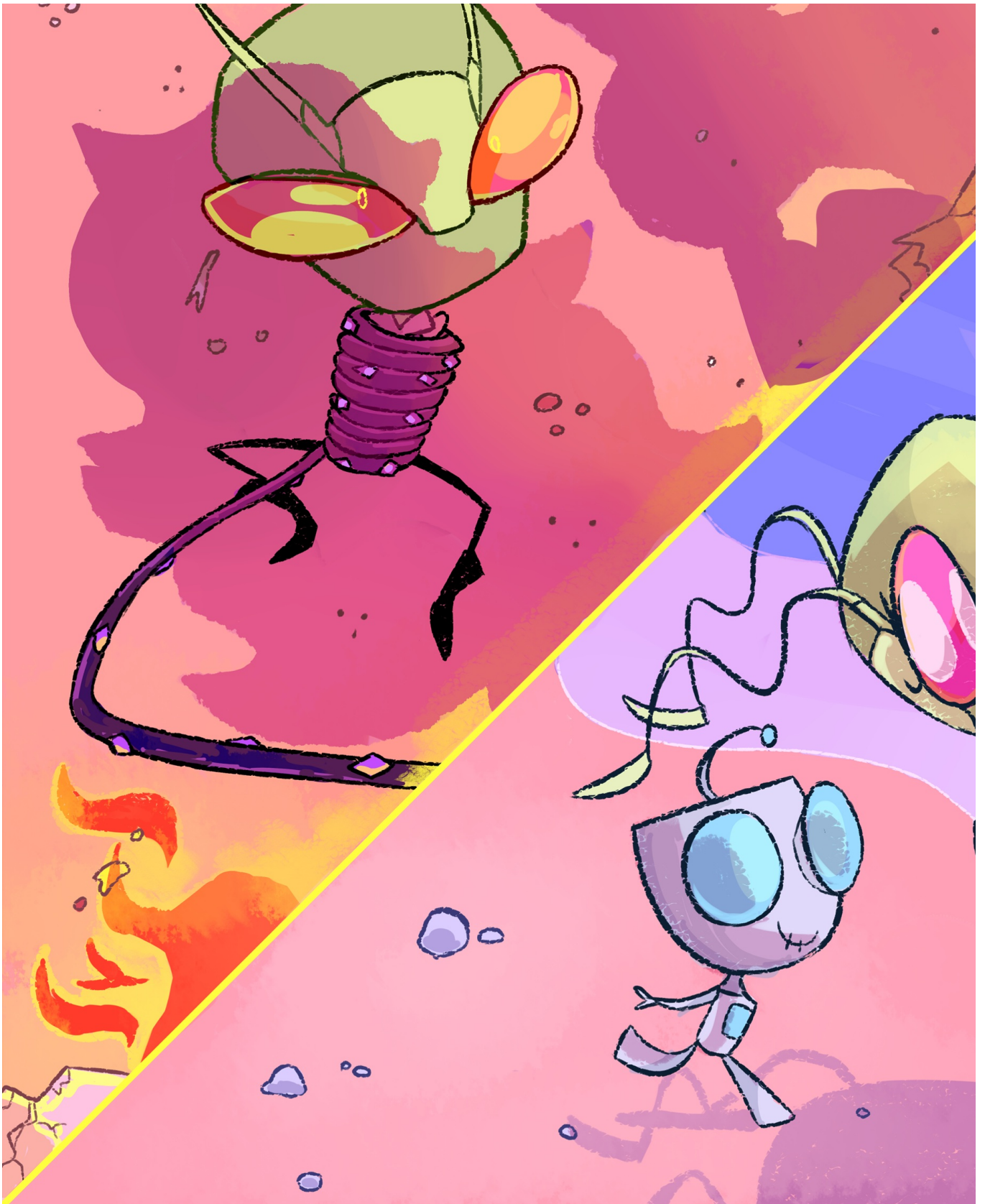
Amethyst led us back to the Crystal Temple, that was embarrassing. These Gems, I swear. Do they really think anything on Earth is worth saving? Well they're wrong! Just now, they left to go "bubble" some kind of monster. Like the heroes they are. Hopefully, they all come back in one piece. I need to study them after all, also repairing the Voot Cruiser would take up too much of my time without any help.

...

Invader Zim, signing off.

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## Chapter End Notes

All artwork is done by a friend!

Friend's Ao3 account:

<https://archiveofourown.org/users/EmeraldSeaBug/pseuds/EmeraldSeaBug>

And here's my friend's art blog on Tumblr full of water and honey:

<https://seabeescribbles.tumblr.com/>

## Chapter 2

### Chapter Notes

Special thanks to Endvoy, Megxolotl, Peridawesome, and nightmaster000 for leaving comments below! Megxolotl, your comment was super nice! It filled my heart with joy. Peridawesome and nightmaster000, I'm glad you're invested! There are several changes to this newer version of the story, they'll be made more apparent with every chapter. I would like to thank all you readers, it's a pleasure sharing Operation Universe with you!

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

### **Log Entry #5. Invader Zim reporting.**

I've lived in a barn uphill for the past month. Yes, it's been a month. Better here than in the Crystal Temple. All to myself, the large variety of scrap shall serve me well. Scrap, and a stuffed dinosaur. Dinosaurs are giant extinct creatures that used to dominate the Earth. They're far from the most terrifying thing Earth has produced. No, that would be the rain.

It never rains on Irk. As such I grew worried when I first heard the sound of thunder. A horrible roaring sound, like the roar of a Snarl Beast. Pearl assured me that it was safe to step outside, that the rain couldn't POSSIBLY be poisonous. Well she was WRONG and it HURT. IT HURT A LOT! Pearl felt so bad when she saw me squirming around that she offered to be my caretaker. At least for a time. Until the burning stopped. Side note, she likes to talk even more than I do! Kept going on and on about the rain cycle, like I cared.

After that was over and done with, GIR asked if she could stay a little while. So that we would all watch an old movie he rented. And so we did. Aliens attacked the Earth, and they were felled by germs. I initially dismissed this as stupid human propaganda but Pearl couldn't even let me have that. She just had to teach me about germs. I just couldn't believe it, the battle for Earth fought in my fortress! I then got to cleaning with an assortment of mops, scrubbers and germ spray cans. Clean lemony fresh victory was achieved that day.

By the way, the Voot is almost fully operational. Things are moving along well!

...

Invader Zim, signing off.

## **Log Entry #6. Invader Zim reporting.**

One week has passed since I entered the last log entry. Not only did a new threat emerge in that time, but Pearl and I teamed up to stop it! While we were in space. Indeed, the Voot can fly again. Pearl was enthusiastic to aid with repairs, having been stuck on Earth for thousands of years. It wasn't hard to get the ship up and running again. Nothing that drilling, screw-driving and blowtorching couldn't fix.

I could tell she missed space. I've been away from it for 50 days and I missed it. I don't know what it is, but listening to her talk so passionately about the planets and the stars put a smile on my face. Briefly. Maybe it's because of my love for the stars, I dreamed of piloting a Voot when I was younger. I actually rescued mine from a junkyard.

Anyway, enough about that. Pearl and I were heading back to Earth when suddenly, the Voot crashed into something. A dome, covering the planet. It was then that I realized it was stolen. By Planet Jackers. Curse those Planet Jackers! Sneaking up on unsuspecting civilizations and throwing worlds into their sun. To keep it burning, of course. I couldn't tell them about the treaty our races made, not with Pearl in tow. This required an AMAZING plan!

I flew up to the coupling between their ship and the planet. The pods on the Voot detached and hovered down, moving in different directions and cutting through the shell. Pearl kept the Planet Jackers preoccupied, while the shell was cut through. Following the success of the mission, I picked Pearl up and we zoomed down into Earth.

Stupid Planet Jackers, forcing me to save the Earth. So that I can conquer it later. And now I'm back on Earth. That sure was something.

...

Invader Zim, signing off.

## **Log Entry #7. Invader Zim reporting.**

Things haven't gone according to plan and convincing the Crystal Gems to trust me again will take a lot of work.

But let me start from the beginning, with the space probe. It took me nearly two months to build a space probe, but that's something I used to do in my spare time back at the academy. So even with my limited supplies, I managed. Following protocol, I sent out the space probe to the nearby planet Mars in order to see if the barren world had any potential use for the Irken Empire.

When the space probe brought back images of artificial-looking structures, I made the decision to fly to Mars. GIR tagged along for the ride. Investigating led me to stumble upon a control interface, the planet having been converted into a giant spaceship. It's people long extinct, I decided to use Mars to serve my own ends. I contacted the Tallest to alert them of my plan, and I was praised! Cheering could be heard for me and my efforts! I felt so good in that moment... then the Crystal Gems ruined everything!

They somehow managed to find out about my plan and even hijacked a rocket ship! Probably from the NASA place. The Crystal Gems were at the helm of Mercury and our battle took us across the stars. I tried hurling moons at them, but they managed to come back around. We continued chasing each other and headed towards Saturn. GIR successfully steered their ship in another direction. Then I tried losing them in an asteroid belt but ended up getting pummeled by the asteroids. And the Crystal Gems still went out of their way to save me from certain death. Even after what I did, they are truly noble.

Following my defeat, I made excuses. Well, I told the Tallest that I wanted to do a warm-up before conquering Earth. I told the Gems that a brain worm crawled into me, one that must've made it's way into the Voot Crusier and finally hatched. Garnet accepted this explanation, much to the confusion of the other two Gems. Then she picked me up by the front of my tunic. If we find ourselves in the same situation again, I'm ending up like the brain worm. A squashed bug. They walked outside of the barn an hour ago, yet the fear is just now leaving me.

...

Invader Zim, signing off.

### **Log Entry #8. Invader Zim reporting.**

Today I met the Earth larvae Steven. I didn't plan on meeting him, and I wouldn't have if GIR hadn't disappeared again. Later I learned that he was with the Greg-human, but still, that's the second time he's gone missing! And what exactly was doing with Greg? Apparently listening to music. On a compact disc! Humans still use those! Incredible, I know. Greg called letting me know GIR was at his place (or maybe it wasn't his place) and I left the barn to pick him up. There was chitter-chatter, Greg then excused himself to go the bathroom.

While he was gone, GIR began to prattle on about the CD and his new favorite song "Comet." He shouldn't get too attached to Earth Culture. Not when it's marked for conquest. I told him as such, then I heard mewling. As it turns out, Steven was there the whole time! I was in a panic, GIR had to calm me down. Yes, GIR. It was that bad. I wanted to interrogate the filthy worm child but his father-unit came back before I got the chance. I needed some time to be alone and think. How could I create an effective action plan with GIR and Greg droning on? Later the Crystal Gems too.

They stopped by to drop off presents, I didn't think anything of it at the time. Baby Steven was later kidnapped. And not by me! Flipping the script, am I right? Now that I think about it, Pearl trying to pull out the Earth larvae's gemstone was surprisingly sinister. A very, very small part of me felt bad for him. VERY small. GIR was right, the worm baby is cute. But only a little. So is his laugh, it's what made Pearl stop. Here's the confusing part, apparently Rose didn't simply birth Steven? She gave up her physical form. Very unusual, I will look into this matter! Amethyst shapeshifted and Garnet did this thing I don't quite understand. There are so many things I don't understand. How FRUSTRATING!

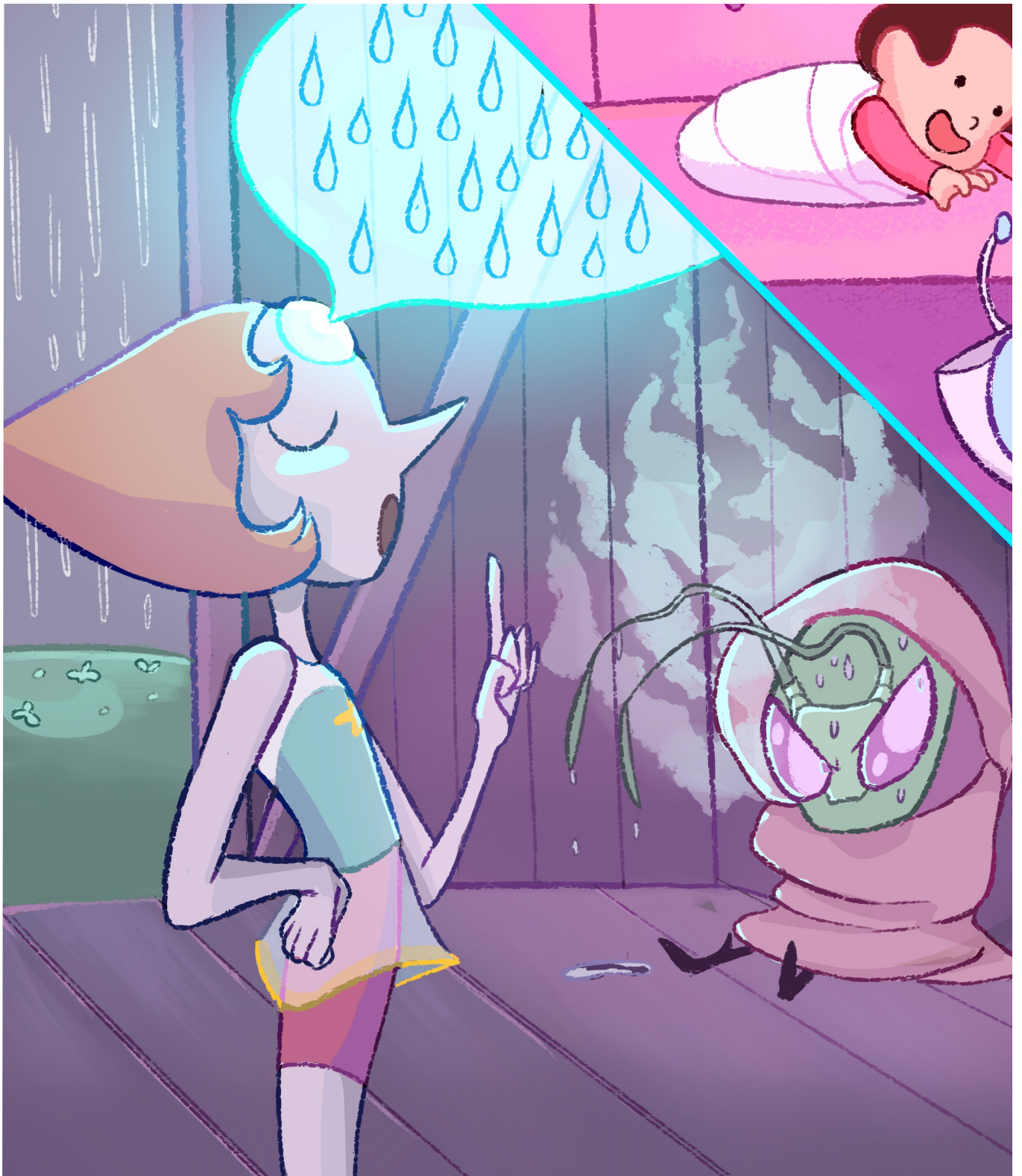
Greg eventually caught up to the van. I forgot we were in his stupid wheeled vehicle! I left to gather my thoughts inside, then the Crystal Gems stole it. None of them know what Steven is, so it isn't just me. That makes me feel a little better.

...

Invader Zim, signing off.







## Chapter End Notes

All artwork is done by a friend!

Friend's Ao3 account:

<https://archiveofourown.org/users/EmeraldSeaBug/pseuds/EmeraldSeaBug>

And here's my friend's art blog on Tumblr full of water and honey:

<https://seabeescrabbles.tumblr.com/>





## Chapter 3

### Chapter Notes

Thank you again for all the support! Megxolotl, Peridawesome, super special thank you to you for commenting and leaving kudos on the chapters! It means so much to me. Oh and I would also like to thank Looney Mooney for doing the same, she has her own crossover project titled "Invader Gems" go check it out if you haven't already! That's about it, I hope you enjoy reading chapter three!

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

#### **Log Entry #9. Invader Zim reporting.**

The probe droid, it captured some pictures inside of the Crystal Temple. While the Gems were away, of course. Just because the Mars mission was a total failure doesn't mean I have no use for the droid. Taking pictures of the enemy base has proven useful!

Now I know that Pearl's room is filled with raised pools and waterfalls. Because of course it is. As for Amethyst's room, there are these giant messy piles everywhere. Nothing of any value was in the piles, only junk nobody needs. Well there were these neat purple crystals, I guess. Each room leads to the next, for example one of the waterfalls in Pearl's room led to Amethyst's room. And the puddles in her room led to various other rooms. One with rocky ledges, and several shards inside of it. That room led to what I believe to be the center of this base. That was the last room my little probe could take pictures of.

Then it took some pictures of the beach. Sand, lots and lots of sand. The crashing of waves, gulls flocking. For the descendants of 'terrible lizards' these birds aren't exactly terrible. Actually, I thought of something funny. Pearl is a bird! Well not really, but think about it. Her nose looks like a beak and she squawks like one too! Ha, that's great. Speaking of Pearl, that reminds me.

The pictures showed her summoning a mirror from her gemstone before warping. She seemed to be in a hurry, her and the other Crystal Gems. This mirror, it looked nice, so I took it from them. A trophy! They've been back for over an hour and bird brain seems to have forgotten about it! I celebrate small victories too.

...

Invader Zim, signing off.

## **Log Entry #10. Invader Zim reporting.**

Victory! Sweet victory for Zim! A package crashed through the wall of the barn, and a Megadoomer was inside! Yes THE Megadoomer! The most powerful walker in the Irken Military, and my Tallest sent it to ME! They must really think I'm an amazing Invader! Engineered by Vort scientists, not Irkens. We simply took all the credit. They're fithy.

I won't lie, GIR did ruin it for me a little. Comparing it to a chicken. But only a little. After all, it's still got a state of the art cloaking system and is bristling with weapons. I love weapons, weapons are nice. It is a bit much though. And I certainly can't use it right now, that would be jumping the gun. Jumping the gun is a phrase that I learned, it doesn't literally involve jumping over a gun. Human expressions sure are weird.

Anyhow, I won't be using this death machine until the time is right. No repeat of the Mars failure. Dealing with the Crystal Gems can be stressful! I had to make sure they didn't find the Megadoomer, the box it came in, or the packing peanuts. So many packing peanuts... GIR was swimming in a sea of them. He helped me big time, I was overthinking how to hide the Megadoomer from Garnet, Amethyst and Pearl. When he reminded me that I could turn the thing invisible! Silly me, right? So they came by later asking about the hole in the wall, and I told them that my package finally arrived! Then they asked me what was in the box. GIR saved me again, quick to say that I ordered the box for him to play in. Which, you know, he absolutely can if he wants to. Amethyst said she can respect that. Yeah. Thanks GIR.

...

Invader Zim, signing off.

## **Log Entry #11. Invader Zim reporting.**

Today, I was abducted by two aliens wearing cheap costumes. They managed to trick GIR, but that honestly doesn't surprise me. Defensive mode seems to be malfunctioning for him, as he jumped into the sack they stuffed me in before we were beamed above their ship.

Thankfully, these aliens happened to be really stupid. Presumably outcasts to their people sent far away from their homeworld in an attempt to get rid of them. Pathetic! They "fused" me to another human, which consisted of a gopher being taped to my head. They're tunneling rodents. Couldn't tunnel it's way out of a spaceship, though.

Another captured being on the ship LATER informed me that several others were able to escape through a duct in the ceiling. He said something else as well, but it was too late for the blob-like being. I had already jumped up through the duct and left him behind. Luckily for him, those two aliens are so unbelievably stupid that the chances of him being hurt are incredibly low. After making my way through the ventilation shaft, I finally found the escape pod room. Then, I called for GIR and the two of us escaped with minimal resistance.

Blue (not THAT Blue) and Green are dumber than any human despite being as tall as the Almighty Tallest themselves. Strange. Unfortunately, I had to go back when those two idiots later abducted Amethyst, they wanted her to mate with a chicken. For research purposes. I hope it was only for research purposes. At least they didn't put up much of a fight, they were deathly afraid of her. And her whip, as they should be.

She also bought a chicken pizza at Fish Stew Pizza afterwards. Yeah, eating chicken. She turned into a chicken when I asked her if she felt uncomfortable eating chicken pizza. That was her answer. One final thought: Amethyst was amused to hear that our captors tried to "fuse" me to the gopher. What would that look like? I wonder.

..

Invader Zim, signing off.

### **Log Entry #12. Invader Zim reporting.**

IT ACTUALLY TALKS. THE MIRROR, I MEAN. I DO NOT LIE. I WOULD NEVER LIE. Okay I've been lying to the Crystal Gems but this is different! I was in the barn speaking out loud to myself as I sometimes do. Not just speaking, but shouting. That's what GIR's idiocy does to me.

Why was I so angry with GIR? Earlier I attempted to taint the human beef supply with filth. I was pumping the cows as he manned the tractor beam. Then he started pressing random buttons, ruining everything! To think, the name of Invader Zim could've been synonymous with DOOKIE! Wait, that doesn't sound right. It sounded better in my head, moving on.

GIR needs fixing, like the Voot. The Voot which is now covered in human sewage thanks to GIR. And not just the Voot, but myself as well. I wish I could just lock him into duty-mode. Could I? I suppose it's possible. Should I build a behavioral modulator? Yes. I will definitely do this, but not right now.

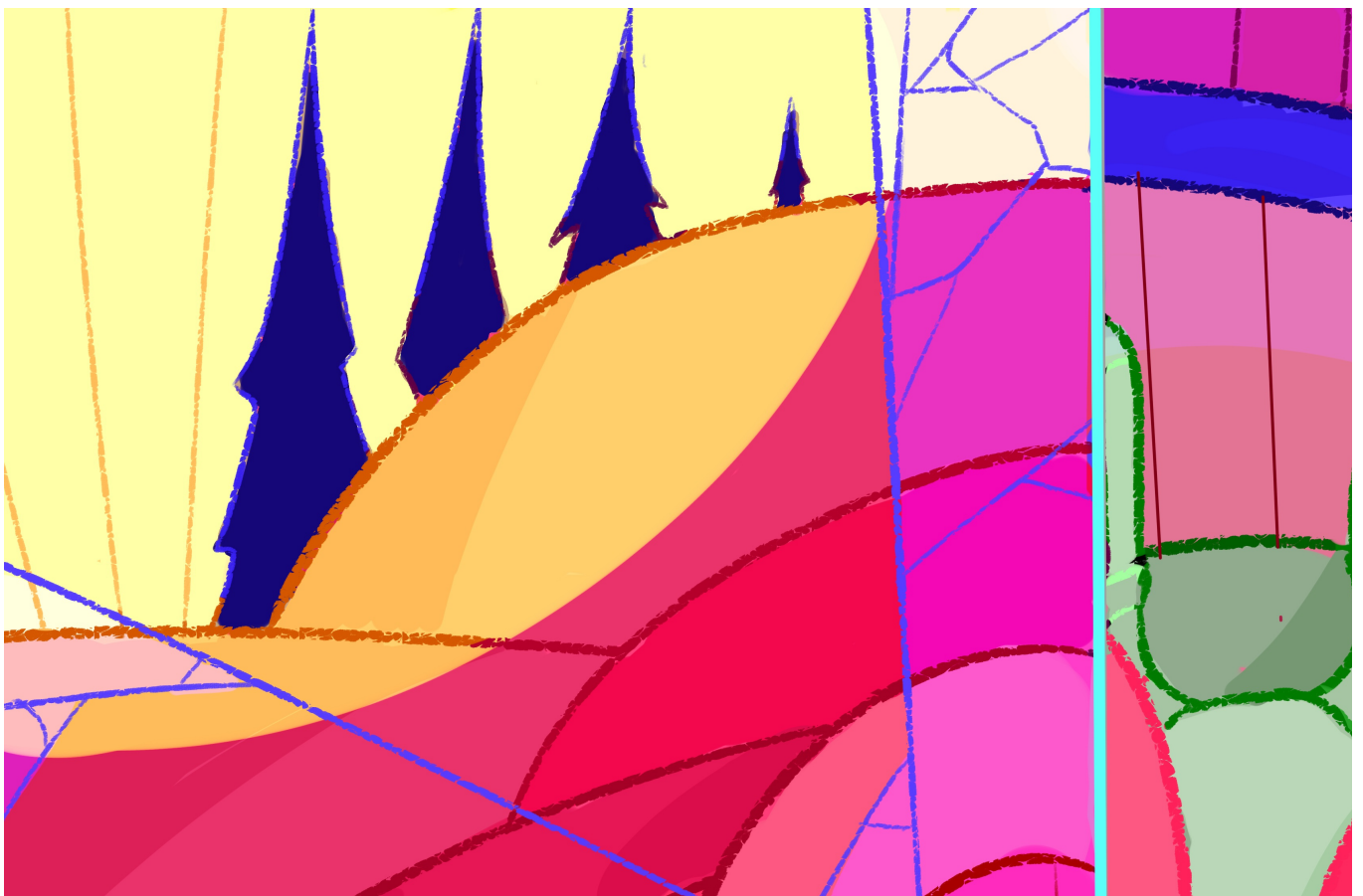
So anyway, I was very angry! Very angry indeed. Pacing back and forth, back and forth. Angry enough to start ranting about unrelated things! Raving about Pearl, and her stupid beak-like nose. That was what caused the mirror-me to laugh with gleeful abandon. Not one of my more ominous ones. I don't have just one laugh, no, I have many different types! I was confused at first! It was definitely my laughter, but where was it coming from? Mirror-me wanted to play a few tricks at first. Oh mirror-me, you're so much like me. Once mirror-me had his fun, I started talking to him!

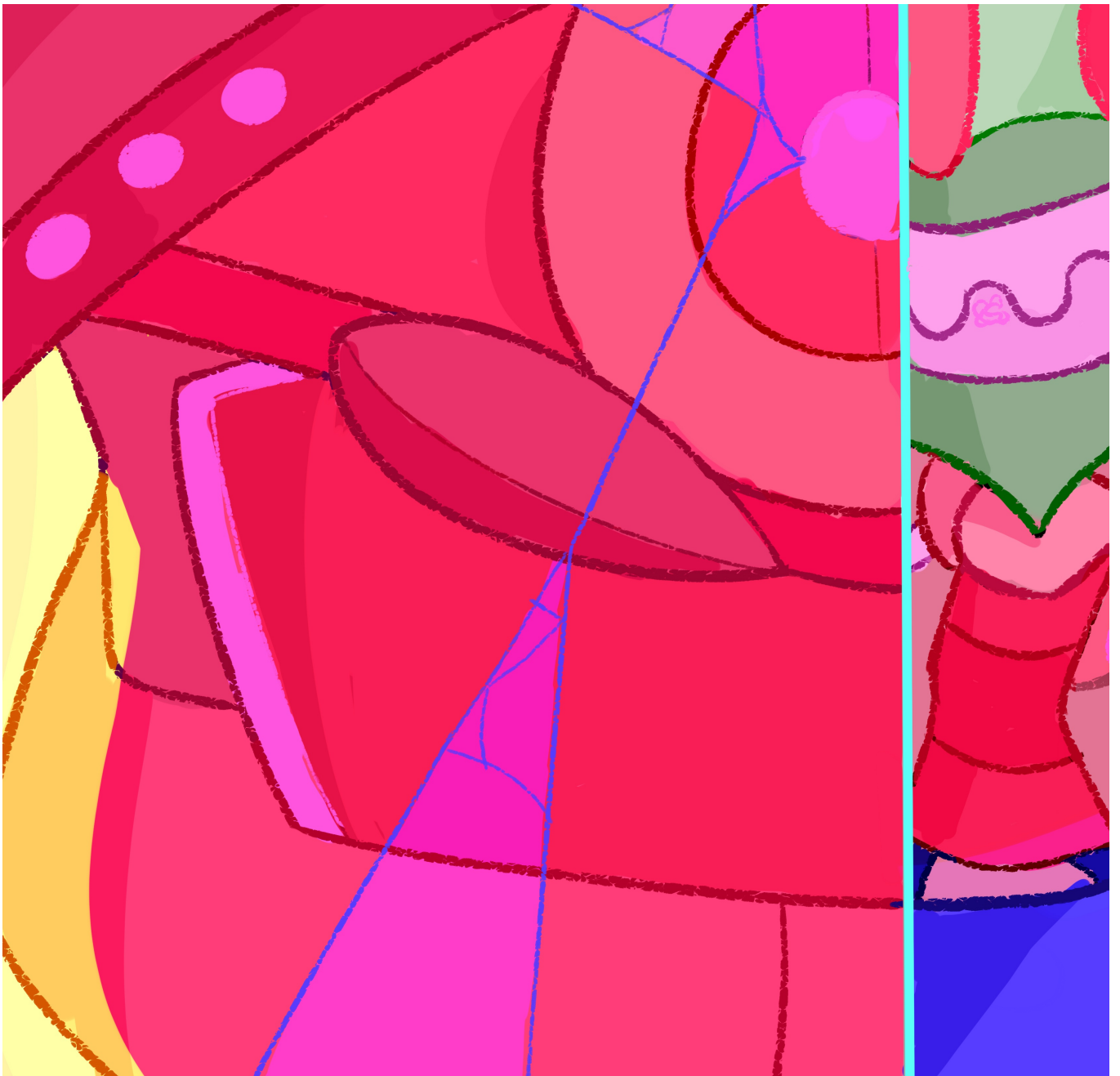
The mirror is almost it's own person, in a way, only able to talk using bits of my sentences. Combining them to speak! I told mirror-me how much the opportunity excites me. Having conversations with someone other than insane GIR! The mirror responded with "Zim is - weird - but I - like Zim!" You know what, I am weird. And I am Zim! The mirror likes using that line a lot. I asked why, mirror-me said "It's funny - Zim is - a funny - guy!" Yes! I am a master of comedy! Mirror-me put me in a better mood. Who better to put Zim in a good mood than Zim?

...

Invader Zim, signing off.

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## Chapter End Notes

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And here's my friend's art blog on Tumblr full of water and honey:

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## Chapter 4

### Chapter Notes

Thank you to everyone who leaves comments and kudos, always appreciated! God, wasn't the Invader Zim movie amazing? I had so much fun seeing all the characters again. Hope you all enjoyed it as much as I did, and I also hope you enjoy this chapter!

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

### **Log Entry #13. Invader Zim reporting.**

The Crystal Gems were dealing with another monster problem, one of Greg's family members died (his aunt or uncle, I forgot which) so he left to attend the funeral. Greg was about to hire a babysitter but I offered to take care of little Steven. Not because I'm a nice guy or anything, no. Of course not. The prospect of studying a human-Gem hybrid was enticing!

GIR suggested we go to Beach City Funland again. Steven was too young to ride so going was pointless. Babies can't do much of anything, it seems. GIR and I did more, like go to the arcade located in Funland. That was actually pretty fun for me. A new high score in the game Road Killer, thanks to my amazing piloting skills. Obtaining tickets playing Skee Ball was incredibly satisfying, even if I didn't know what to spend them on. There's one game which I LOATHE ENTIRELY named Pain Piggy. That cheating pig! Maybe going wasn't pointless. I did have some fun. So Beach City Funland does live up to it's namesake. Whoever owns the amusement park would undoubtedly be proud to know that it is Zim approved. There are so many places in Beach City, we couldn't go to them all in one day. Or, maybe we could? It is a small town. We should try doing that sometime!

Before Greg came back from the funeral, GIR and I took little Steven to the beach. He appears to be a normal baby. But the thing is, I know he's not! That name, Rose Quartz. I couldn't put my finger on it before, but I knew that name sounded familiar. She's the Gem that shattered Pink Diamond! There's just so much to unpack here! I always knew there was something different about this Gem. He would be a great asset, just think of what he could become under my tutelage! What a brilliant plan! Sometimes I amaze even myself.

...

Invader Zim, signing off.



#### **Log Entry #14. Invader Zim reporting.**

Those monsters, now they've become a problem for me. They pose a danger to the mission, specifically Steven. One of them nearly ate him! And it's the Crystal Gems who allowed this to happen! It's their fault, all their fault. If they had just killed the monster, but no, instead they decided to "bubble" it. Okay, maybe it's partly GIR's fault. Mostly. But what even is "bubbling" anyway?

When Garnet returned to the Temple with the other Gems in tow, I wanted to know what the red bubble was. She then decided to take me to a room I had never seen before, Pearl called it the Burning Room. There were many, many bubbles. And a lava pit in the center, I wish I had a lava pit. GIR shouldn't have come along, I couldn't pay attention to what Garnet had to say with him there. No, I had to put GIR under a microscope the entire time. The second I kept my eyes off of GIR, he popped a bubble. Releasing a monster! Garnet was about to poof it when Pearl and Amethyst opened the room, the beast jumped up and started tearing around at a hundred miles an hour!

We were hunting the monster, I don't even know for how long. Pearl asked how the monster got loose, Garnet laid the blame squarely at GIR. Before I could ask "why don't you just kill the monsters instead of keeping them in bubbles" GIR pointed out that Greg and Steven were right outside. Then the monster finally reared its ugly head. Charging at Greg, who suddenly froze. The Gems were too far away to help. I had to do something! So I picked GIR up and THREW him at the monster. GIR got us into this mess, and so he got us out of it. I threw him with so much force that the monster poofed from the impact! Steven thinks GIR is absolutely hilarious, the baby was giggling. Crisis averted, but a SIR Unit's actions are reflection of their Invader's! If GIR is nothing more than a clown to these people, what does that say about me?

...

Invader Zim, signing off.

#### **Log Entry #15. Invader Zim reporting.**

I am a genius! I already knew that, this is just more proof of my genius! The behavioral modulator successfully locked GIR into duty-mode. Meaning I have the evil henchman I so rightly deserved all along.

The first attempt was a failure, granted. Turning the knob on the behavioral modulator up a notch did absolutely nothing. GIR ran towards his target before turning his attention to a nearby empty

can of cola. I didn't have the time to build a holographic simulation so his target was a raccoon. I kept having to turn the knob up a few more notches. He never did destroy his target, instead he simply stared at the mangy animal and concluded that it wasn't a threat. Not to the mission, only to sea turtle eggs. Our mission, to analyze Crystal Gem weaknesses and prepare Earth for the coming badness!

Yes! This is incredible! Now, with his amazing new programming, information retrieval is finally possible! We did hit a snag, though. I ordered GIR to observe the citizens of Beach City. Then the police car landed three feet away from me. I wasn't expecting that. According to GIR, the owner of Beach City Funland hired a security guard, as there were recent reports of a little green man and his flying metal child causing trouble. GIR took it upon himself to do... THAT. He's got the spirit but that is NOT information retrieval. I can't make the security guard human forget what he's seen, not without the tools to do the job! Think of how many humans must've seen GIR lifting a car! How do I explain this? Official Gem business?

I ordered GIR to monitor Earth broadcasts until I found something better for him to do. Eventually he thought of something better, all on his own. Left the barn with some stupid looking canister strapped to his back. Now then, what to do with the security guard human? Maybe mirror-me has some ideas.

...

Invader Zim, signing off.

### **Log Entry #16. Invader Zim reporting.**

I... nnggh... mirror-me was right. Normal GIR is better than the serious version. I should've just listened to him, mirror-me knew something was up. But I disregarded what he said and it wasn't until Doug's scanner went on that I swore to stop GIR. The "flying metal child" attempting to drain the brains of citizens at Buddwick Public Library. Eh, the security guard human's name is Doug.

I used his car to drive to the library, GIR had already drained his fair share of humans by the time we got there. I ordered him to stop but he wouldn't obey! Instead, he talked back and called everything about me stupid! Can you believe it, the gall? Then he tried to kill me! I still can't believe it myself. Forced to run for my dear life, from my own SIR Unit.

The experience was horrifying, it was like something out of a horror movie GIR and I would watch. That's what stung the most, this was the same GIR who always wanted to spend time with me! It hurt! I've grown a little attached to him and I didn't even realize it until then. I couldn't get

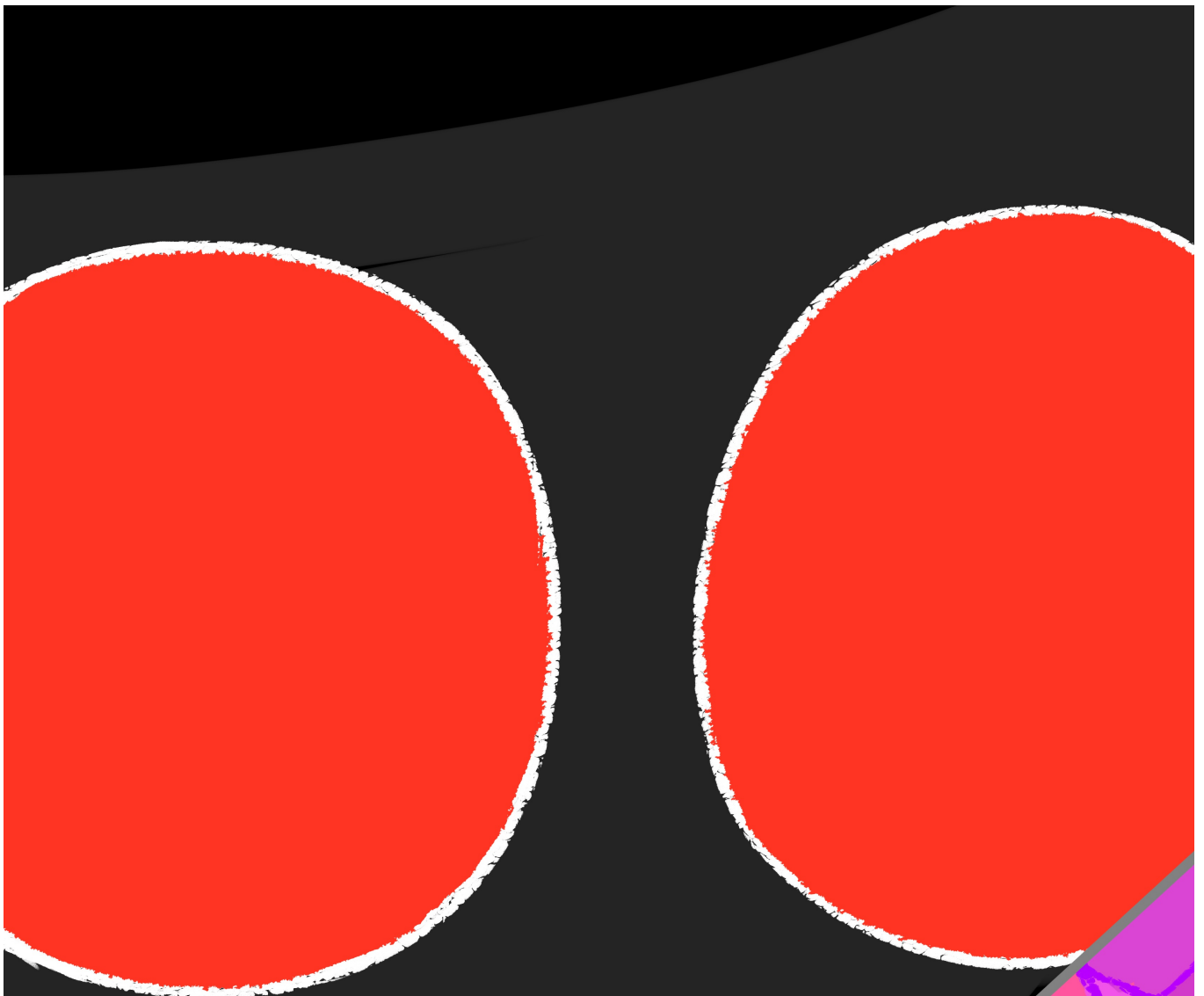
through to him. Instead he slammed me into a vending machine. Got ready to fire his laser. Of course, he failed, otherwise there would be no sixteenth log entry.

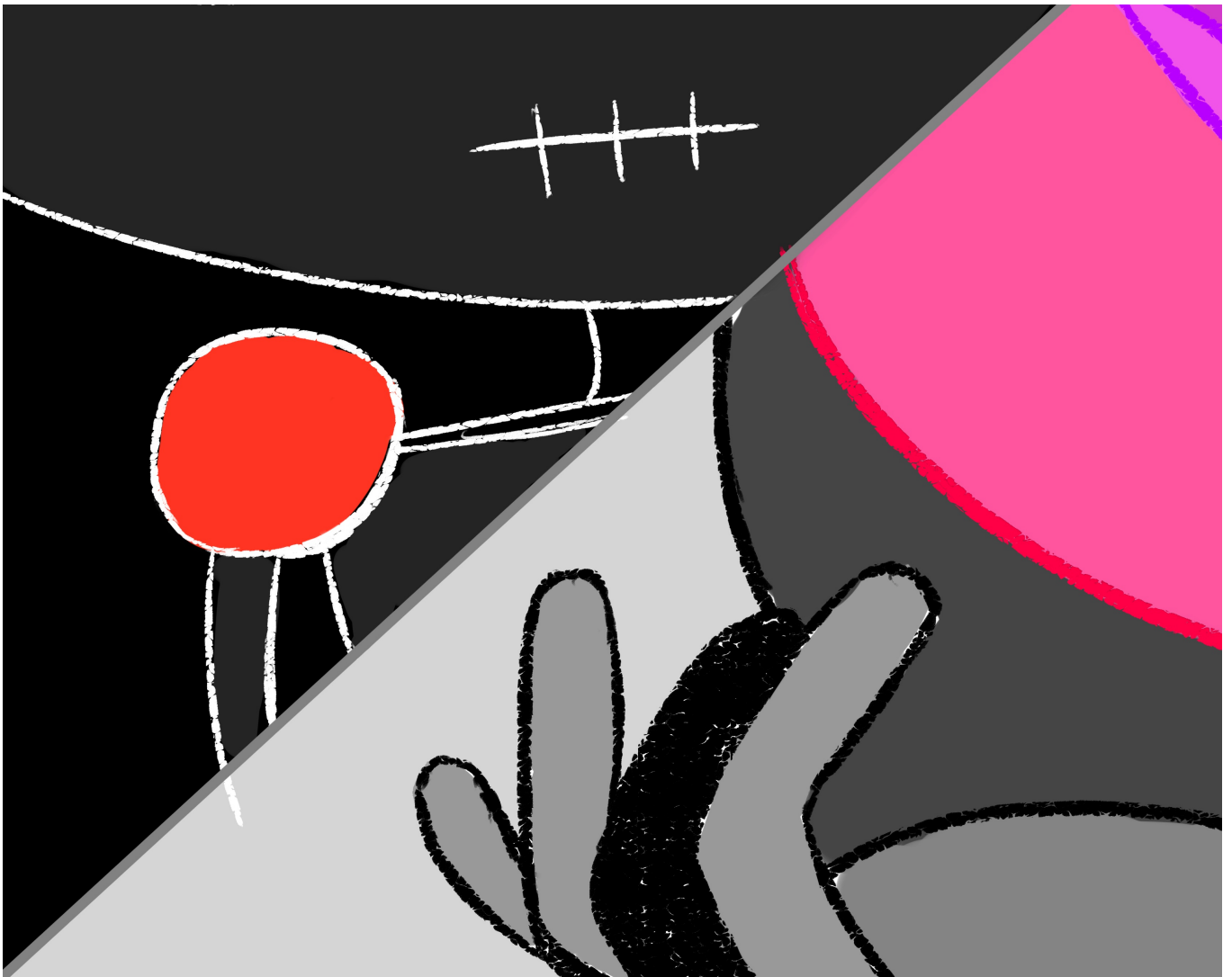
Doug really came through for me when he fired that taser at GIR. I was able to grab the modulator back from GIR, turn it right down and then destroy it once he went back to normal mode. Mirror-me said that would be the best thing to do, I agree. The lesson of this story is: don't try to change others. A lesson I can get behind, after all, I wouldn't change a thing about myself! Nope, nothing at all. Doug thanked us for the adventure, he rarely sees any action as a security guard. His life must be pretty boring. Not mine though, clearly.

...

Invader Zim, signing off.

---





## Chapter End Notes

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And here's my friend's art blog on Tumblr full of water and honey:

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## Chapter 5

### Chapter Notes

Everyone, I appreciate all of the hits and kudos this has been getting, but I would really appreciate more comments! It's a little discouraging when so few people leave comments, once again shoutout to Megxolotl for always doing so. And I didn't post a chapter last Friday due to movie hype, instead I decided to post two chapters in one week! This is a pretty major chapter~

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

#### **Log Entry #17. Invader Zim reporting.**

I feel like... somebody's watching me. As I was walking home with GIR, I saw someone walk past. I turned around and there was nobody there. Not late at night, when all the citizens of Beach City were fast asleep. What does it mean? I know I saw someone out the corner of my eye, I just know it! Am I just making a big deal out of nothing? GIR said something about a cat, could it have just been a cat? It's probably unimportant, I know, but I hate not knowing things! I HATE IT! There's a lot that I still don't comprehend about Earth and its inhabitants. So I have to MAKE it comprehensible.

I recently came to the conclusion that I don't know enough about the humans. I know Greg and his son Steven, obviously. I met Doug a few days ago. But there are about fifteen other people in Beach City and I don't know any of them! I know that Beach City Funland has an owner who probably hates us. Donut shops, pizzerias, they must have owners. And the customers too! I plan on meeting them. GIR and I will properly retrieve information tomorrow, no draining of brains this time around. Do GIR and I need disguises?

Probably not, the reason Invaders wear disguises is to blend in with native inhabitants. I don't need to do that here in Beach City. Alien life forms are already commonplace, and none of the humans would know what me being an Irken means for their planet. Perfect, the unsuspecting fools have no idea what awaits them!

...

Invader Zim, signing off.

#### **Log Entry #18. Invader Zim reporting.**

I had no idea. No idea what I was in for. I thought today would be a good day, that I would get work done. You know what I got instead? A new enemy, her name is Tak. And not just a new enemy, but an IRKEN one at that. She's after my job, this planet. The barn is in ruins. MY BASE. AND MY ROBOT BEE. I JUST BUILT THAT BEE. This is... HORRIBLE. That... that HIDEOUS girl TAK.

I was RIGHT in the previous log entry. I wish I wasn't, but that was Tak's SIR Unit watching us. I wouldn't have even known Tak existed if not for GIR pointing her out to me. She was staring at me from a distance, when we were in Fish Stew Pizza. I would go into more detail on how that went but not right now. GIR saw her staring, he said that meant she was in love with me. That I should ask her out, even.

I thought about what GIR said and decided that he was right. More than that, I concluded that this would prove valuable and that I could use her to learn more about human af-FECTION! Clearly I was wrong, I tried to win her affection and terrible things happened. Sure I kissed her hand, and gave her a hug. But there was also a BEEHIVE, and a DOG and FIRE. That stupid TV show, "Floopsy Bloops Shmoopsy" perpetuated false ideas in GIR's Irken robot brain. I shouldn't have listened to him.

The worst was still yet to come. I returned home to the barn and told mirror-me about the miserable experience I had. He agreed I should end the "relationship" with Tak. If you can even call it that. Then I heard a knocking on the door, and TAK was standing on the other side of it. I was pretty glad to finally end things. More than just that, the chance to hear her shrill cry of having been rejected by ZIM!

I WAS ROBBED OF THAT CHANCE. SHE'S IRKEN. A MAD IRKEN. Blamed me for her horrible life and everything. She didn't tell me what her plan was, though. Something I did years ago, I think I blew a power block? Don't know, don't care. I'm going to have some revenge of my own after she dismantled the barn. At least GIR is safe. The mirror too. Oh and my Voot, the Megadoomer, they were out back so nothing happened to them. Along with something special I was working on. I'm gonna... I'm gonna have to team up with the Crystal Gems again, aren't I? Great, just great.

...

Invader Zim, signing off.

**Log Entry #19. Invader Zim reporting.**

Forty-eight hours of trailing Tak and all I could come up with were some photos. I wrestled them off a ham demon Tak created, what a horrible adventure that was! The monstrosity exploded, GIR gave me a triumphant little fanfare. It was neat. Said photos are of a GIANT, EVIL WEENIE STAND her “father” has constructed. Father, heh, Irkens don’t even have those.

I brought these pictures to the Crystal Gems, and explained the crisis. Naturally, they vowed to stop Tak from destroying the Earth. I knew they would. Those three care about this planet so much, I might as well make good use of their love for it. And Tak wants to destroy the Earth! I only want to conquer it, what she’s doing is way worse.

So this is how plan A was supposed to go. I would fly the Crystal Gems to the weenie building, drop them off, and then wait in the Voot Cruiser with GIR until the time was right. For a sneak attack! All three had to shapeshift so they could fit inside. It was a longer drive than usual, the city was pretty far away. Disgusting too. I think I saw an enormous cesspool.

Ultimately, plan A didn’t end in Tak’s defeat. They met and exchanged banter, Tak said that it would be “an honor to destroy the legendary renegade Gems” and Garnet said in response, “you must be even more delusional than Zim told us you are if you think that will ever happen.”

Tak said something about business ventures, I don’t really care, AND THEN I APPEARED IN MY VOOT CRUISER. Ahh, but MiMi her SIR Unit attacked me, and by the end we all landed by a garbage dump as Tak made her escape. Thankfully, Amethyst was able to snatch MiMi’s memory disc. Amethyst said she only needed to spray the SIR Unit with a soda can. A little underwhelming but, it’s whatever. Doesn’t matter how we got our hands on it, we used it to figure out what her plan is. Speaking of her plan, I have to stop her from enacting it!

...

Invader Zim, signing off.

### **Log Entry #20. Invader Zim reporting.**

Plan B DID end in Tak’s defeat! Her plan was to hollow out Earth’s molten core with a magma pump she created. But the Earth is safe, because MY plan was better than HER plan. The Crystal Gems helped, yes. I dropped Garnet and Pearl off at the weenie stand so they could shut the pump off. And they did, obviously.

I drew Tak away and we had an EPIC battle. I love dogfighting, it was amazing chasing each other around in the stream of lava. What a rush that was! We kept charging toward one another, at one point my windshield was crushed. She's actually pretty good. Not good like me, of course, but still good.

Thanks to some interference from Amethyst and GIR, I was able to gain the upper hand. The latter's head was connected to a rudimentary forward command center I built. If that capsule hadn't broken during the crash, I would have an actual base along with a computer. I made the most of what I had. Took me FOREVER to build it, too. Amethyst was able to control MiMi using GIR as a remote host, infecting Tak's SIR with my SIR's insanity.

Earth was returned to it's normal shape, the battle was won. Tak was forced to flee in an escape pod like the FAILURE she is. Her plans ruined, she proceeded to mock me from the escape pod. Told me LIES about the Almighty Tallest. I HATE HER. I WISH I COULD... eh... FEED HER BRAINS TO GIR. I at least respect the Crystal Gems, for being worthy adversaries and all that. NOT HER. Well, all that matters is that Tak's snack plan was stopped.

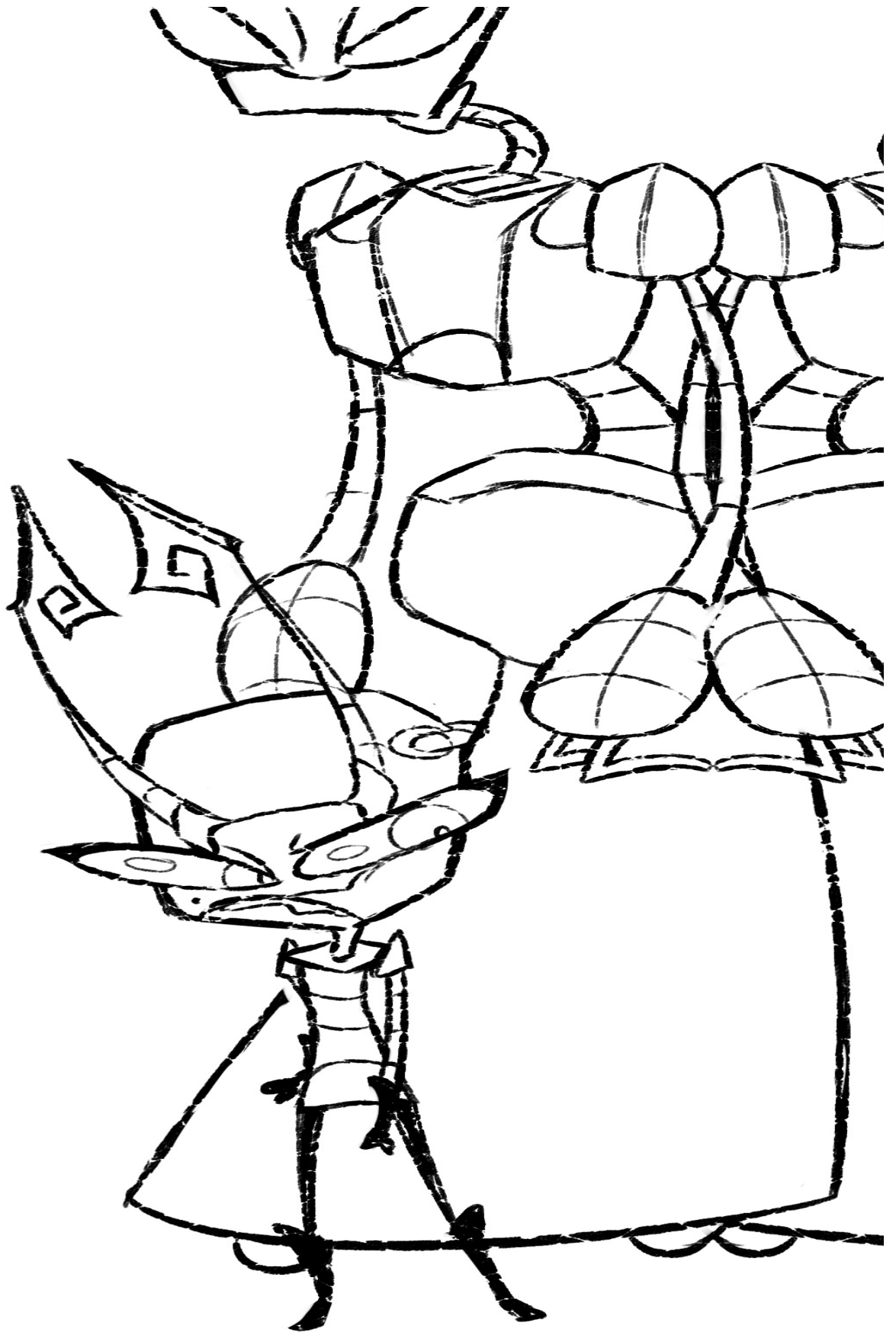
When reporting to the Tallest from my new command center, I told them that I hypnotized the Crystal Gems to help me! That sounds more evil, right? Tallest Purple only seemed to care that he didn't get a planet filled with snacks. Why didn't I come up with that plan? I have to come up with one even better to please him and Tallest Red! This is a nice command center, I just hope that nothing else ever happens to the barn. That would be... not good.

...

Invader Zim, signing off.







## Chapter End Notes

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## Chapter 6

### Chapter Notes

Again, thank you all for the comments and kudos! Last chapter was really fun to write so I'm glad you enjoyed reading it. This chapter has less intensity but it does have the first artwork in a while! It's actually the first piece of art that Sea made for the project. She's doing a lot better now than she was this time last week and you can expect more art on the way of previous chapters. Hope you enjoy this one!

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

### **Log Entry #21. Invader Zim reporting.**

Even after defeating Tak, she still poses a threat to my mission! Or at least her ship does. It's a very nice ship. Originally a Spittle Runner, highly customized. She had to eject herself out of it following my dogfight. So what's the problem? How could this failing ship pose a threat to Zim? It crashed around the outskirts of Beach City, that's how.

The Crystal Gems saw the Spittle Runner crashing and so they entered the woods looking for it. GIR was with them. I don't like him being alone with the Gems. Just think of what he might blurt out when I'm not there. Secrets, secrets that are mine alone to know. I can't allow the Crystal Gems to begin repairs on that ship. These secrets are the reason!

Commandeering the Spittle Runner would give them access to it's computer. With this computer, they have access to Irken information. They could even discover that I am the best, most amazing Invader! This is bad, I have to get rid of that blasted ship! But how? Pearl would kill me, I know she would. I need a good excuse, but what? Oh, I have an idea, what if Tak's downloaded personality were reactivated?

Aside from the computer, the Spittle Runner also possesses tentacles and two pointed arm-like appendages that allow it to walk rather than fly, making it a very dangerous ship. One that would need to be destroyed. By me! Why am I so amazing? Steven will learn so much from me when he grows up! Truly one of the best things to come out of this mission to Earth. Along with the mirror. Which, of course, is me. Another part of me. I know Invaders need no one but I am no ordinary Invader. I do things a special kind of way, that's what the Tallest love about me!

...

Invader Zim, signing off.

### **Log Entry #22. Invader Zim reporting.**

I haven't gotten around to that whole 'sabotaging the Spittle Runner' thing. Something more important came up. Earlier today, I noticed that the Tallest were closer to the Earth than EVER before! And I love Red and Purple, in fact, I have since I first met them at the academy. I wanted to be the sole Almighty Tallest, at one time. But Red and Purple were better suited for the job. Besides, my empire needs me as an Invader.

I have no plans for Earth conquest at this time, therefore I didn't feel comfortable inviting the Tallest. Not yet. It's much too soon. If I were to invite the Tallest, there would be a plate of sandwiches left for them. Instead, I was about to tell them all about my GREATEST plan ever. The next step after Operation Impending Doom 2. I call it: Operation Universe! Allow me to elaborate. Rose Quartz, the leader of the Crystal Gems, shattered Pink Diamond. If her son were on our side, we could win a war against the other remaining Diamonds!

The Irken Empire is well on it's way to achieving galactic conquest. And yet, there's always the possibility of conquering EVEN MORE than one galaxy. Unfortunately, an enemy vessel attacked the Massive, and so the transmission was cut. Leaving me to stare at nothing for an hour. Hold on, enemy vessel? Who would dare go up against the Tallest? It can't be the Homeworld Gems, they're too far away. Hopefully it isn't the Chimera Sui Generis, I've heard horrifying stories about him. Horrifying even for Zim. I'll give them a call later, and ask what that was all about.

New idea! What if I show the mirror to my Tallest? They'd love mirror-me! Still, probably not as much as I do. That would make up for Probing Day when I had nothing to present. It was embarrassing but I took my pummeling with pride. Anyway, GIR appreciates having the other me around. I sometimes hear him recapping the events of cartoons and graphic novels. Mirror-me enjoys listening more than I do. Good on him!

...

Invader Zim, signing off.

### **Log Entry #23. Invader Zim reporting.**

MIRROR-ME SPOKE AGAINST THE TALLEST. I DON'T KNOW WHY. AFTER ALL, HE'S

JUST ANOTHER PART OF ME! AND I LOVE THE TALLEST!

I called asking who DARED attack the Massive, apparently it was a resistance group. Tallest Red mentioned their leader was a Vortian. Yeah, that figures. I wouldn't be surprised if MOST of the Resisty was made up of conquered races. Resisty, what a stupid name. They were able to evacuate at the last second, promising to return again before their ship blew up.

These rebels are only prolonging the inevitable, both the Resisty and the Crystal Gems. I was about to go off on a tangent but then GIR reminded me to tell them about the mirror. The mirror which has FAILED me. By exclaiming "NO - THE TALLEST - ARE TERRIBLE!" EXCUSE ME, WHAT? WHY WOULD MIRROR-ME SAY THAT? I HAD TO EXPLAIN TO THE TALLEST THAT I WOULD NEVER!

I begged for forgiveness. The Tallest were so hurt, and I did anything they asked of me. To prove my loyalty! My squeedlyspooch burst (immersing yourself in a vat of boiling special tuna sauce will do that to you) but I was able to win back their favor by finishing many grueling tasks. After the call ended, mirror-me asked "how could - you - humiliate - yourself - like that?" Any other Invader would do the same thing.

Mirror-me honestly thought Tak was telling the truth and that the Tallest have been lying to me. Well of course they aren't lying to me! They assigned me the most important mission of all! I appreciate his concern, but mirror-me is gravely mistaken. At one point, he even suggested I claim Earth for myself. "Emperor Zim" will NEVER HAPPEN. As cool as that sounds, what if "Emperor Zim" was actually a big jerk? Ultimately, mirror-me and I agreed to pretend nothing happened. He has to accept that I like things just the way they are. Me as an Invader, nothing has to change!

...

Invader Zim, signing off.

#### **Log Entry #24. Invader Zim reporting.**

GIR made waffles this morning. At first I refused to eat them but he began screaming uncontrollably. I gave in to him and much to my surprise, they didn't make me sick at all. I thought for sure they would. Eating them was a good way to build a tolerance for Earth food! Now if only I could do the same thing for rain. There is my paste theory, which I definitely plan on testing.

Ah yes, planning. I planned on doing something pretty important later today, but I haven't been able to remember what since breakfast. Oh! The Spittle Runner, that's it! The repairs could be halfway done by now, I seriously need to get a move on!

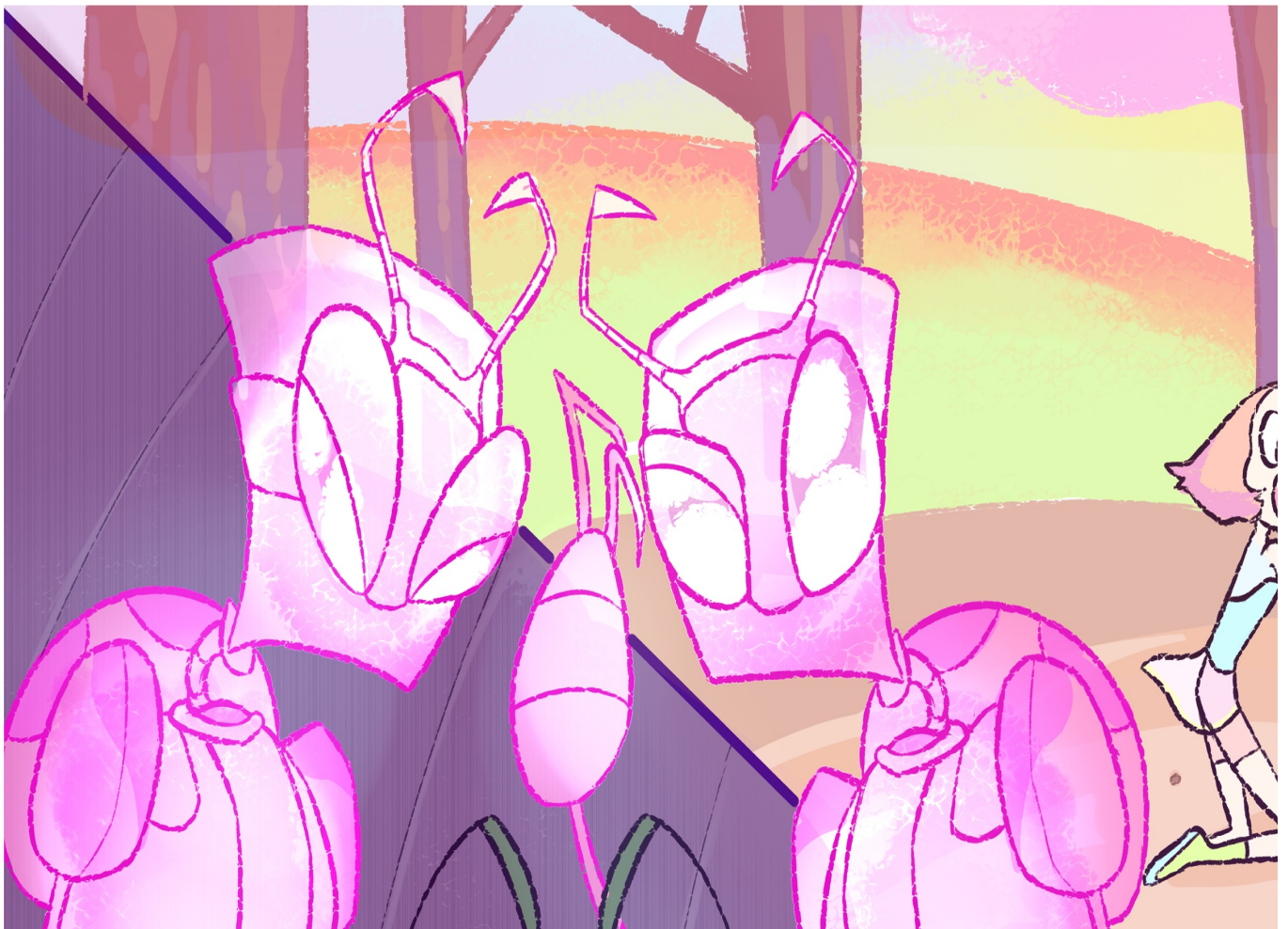
Blast it, I know I said the waffles were edible but I feel sick! GIR fed me too many waffles, I told him when I started to feel sick. But he wouldn't listen to me, and so I need him to **FETCH ME THE BUCKET**. Again. The nausea has been on and off, you see.

I'm back from throwing up a third time. Not as bad as the other two times. GIR now wants me to eat breakfast with him every day, but he must understand that I cannot eat like him and Amethyst do. No one eats like they do. It's pretty disgusting. I'm going to be leaving things here for right now, before I need to throw up a fourth time.

...

Invader Zim, signing off.

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## Chapter End Notes

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## Chapter 7

### Chapter Notes

The Steven Universe movie was incredible! I loved the animation, characterization, orchestration, it was all phenomenal and the Crewniverse really outdid themselves. Side note, I decided to actually start replying to comments. Thanks again for reading and enjoying the story!

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

### **Log Entry #25. Invader Zim reporting.**

This is so STUPID. And UNFAIR. I deserve better than to be dragged back to Foodcourtia, I even told my Frylord about my secret mission to Earth. If only he called the Tallest, they could've sorted everything out! I can't even give them a call, my transmissions will be blocked. Curse that Sizz-Lorr!

I was sentenced to work at his restaurant, Shloogorh's Flavor Monster, for the rest of my life. The worst part about it? Sizz-Lorr enjoyed giving me all the life-threatening jobs to do. He's older than Tak and I, with a military background. And very large. In retrospect, it's remarkable that I was able to escape at all. My disappearance left him shorthanded, the Foodening began on the same day as Operation Impending Doom 2. If the Great Assigning were just a day later, I never would've gotten a second chance. It's scary to think about.

20 years. How was I gone for 20 years? I never did fully understand how the time warp things work. No time to think about that! GIR is my only hope, I have concerns. The little robot is wildly inconsistent, sometimes he pulls through and other times he... doesn't. It's terrible when he doesn't. If he does alert the Tallest, then I'll eat 1,000 of his waffles as a special favor to him. Until Red and Purple do arrive to rescue me (I so hope they aren't busy at the moment) it'll be torture like the last time.

If the Tallest are busy, they need to arrive in a week's time. The Foodening begins anew and I could potentially be trapped for 20 years like Sizz-Lorr was! Trying to escape is useless, what with that perimeter scanner programmed to recognize my bio signature, and Sizz-Lorr keeping a close eye on me. I don't know how much more of this I can take. I've been hiding in the back of the restaurant, this is the first time I've had to myself since being kidnapped. Now I hear Sizz-Lorr asking where I am, so it's time to go back to that counter I hate so much.

...



Invader Zim, signing off.

### **Log Entry #26. Invader Zim reporting.**

How many waffles? Not 1,000. 80? 50? 40, that's still a lot of waffles. Pearl showed up on Foodcourtia and not the Tallest. Turns out I didn't need to be saved, I was able to save myself from that disgusting planet. All I needed was my wit and ingenuity!

Everything that happened the last time on Foodcourtia, happened again. But somehow even worse. Not just the old, Sizz-Lorr had some horrible new ideas. He forced me to dance in a suit filled with white-hot grease to entertain his REVOLTING customers. One day, they'll know the true meaning of vengeance. All of them except for one customer, a blob who always took hours ordering. At first I hated him like the rest, but his THICKNESS proved useful. The scanner couldn't read my bio signature inside his stomach. Gross yet effective.

Sizz-Lorr realized what happened right as I made it out the door and a long chase ensued. There was more at stake in this battle than even my ones with the Crystal Gems. An absolute beast, I have to wonder why he isn't a commander. He's certainly big enough to be one. Was he forced into service as well? Is there a story behind that scar of his? I'll probably never know the answers to any of my Sizz-Lorr questions.

My legs were about to give out on me when I saw Pearl in a hangar, standing right next to Tak's ship. I just couldn't believe it, she and the other Gems were able to finish repairing it during the week I was gone. Did the Tallest not pick up GIR's call so he asked Pearl for help instead? I know that I should be absolutely livid to see Pearl using Irken equipment and sitting in Tak's ship. But in that moment, I was happy to see a familiar face. Trust me, I'm not growing soft or anything. Working for Sizz-Lorr is so bad that anything seems better by comparison. That's all.

Wow, Pearl sure is overwhelmed by the sights and sounds of Foodcourtia. Makes sense, Foodcourtia is an Irken planet and those weren't a thing in her day. I think she just asked me a question about that. I'm going to put away the datapad. Lucky for her, I like to talk too.

...

Invader Zim, signing off.

## **Log Entry #27. Invader Zim reporting.**

THE IRKEN EMPIRE. AHHHHH THIS IS SO EXCITING. PEARL AND I WERE ON OUR WAY BACK TO EARTH, AND WE PASSED BY AN IRKEN LIGHT CRUISER. I'M NOW ON AN IRKEN PLANET THAT ISN'T TERRIBLE LIKE FOODCOURTIA. A SURPRISE PARTY FOR ZIM!

I don't know why those Irken soldiers beat me up before taking me to this place. Hmmm, I do remember seeing something very similar happen on one of GIR's favorite shows, I think they were called birthday punches? Or maybe they beat me up because the Tallest let them in on the secret, that I was assigned the most important mission. My cover hasn't been blown and Pearl still has no idea. Excellent!

The Tallest honor me deep in the most wobbly, gelatinous parts of my squeedlyspooch! They arranged for the Control Brains to play a neat little clip show. My incredible life. Past, present, but regrettably not future. I asked the Control Brains if I could write all of this down, so it hasn't begun yet. My fellow Irkens are all smiling, so are my Tallest. They must be really happy to see me again.

Smiling... sinisterly? Nah! My eyes are probably playing tricks on me. If these ocular implants are faulty, I must alert the Tallest. The best Invader should have the best surgically installed ocular implants! Those two care about me so much and I don't want to keep them waiting. Time for the party to get started!

...

Invader Zim, signing off.

## **Log Entry #28. Invader Zim reporting.**

THIS ISN'T A PARTY. IT'S AN EXISTENCE EVALUATION. I don't understand, those are for criminals! And space clowns. I'm neither of those things! Clowns seriously creep me out. And I really should've trusted my gut feelings, the "party" was dead like death.

I could wind up dead! Even worse, never remembered. That's HORRIBLE. I can't even BARE the thought of being ERASED like I was NOTHING. I AM NOT NOTHING, I AM ZIM. AND I HATE BEING LABELED AS DEFECTIVE, I HAVE FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER.

Memories. Those long forgotten memories, all made known as cables locked onto my I.D. PAK.

There was Horrible Painful Overload Day, and the sequel. Irkens may be able to see well in the dark, better than humans, but that doesn't mean everyone on Irk would APPRECIATE being plunged into darkness for nine years.

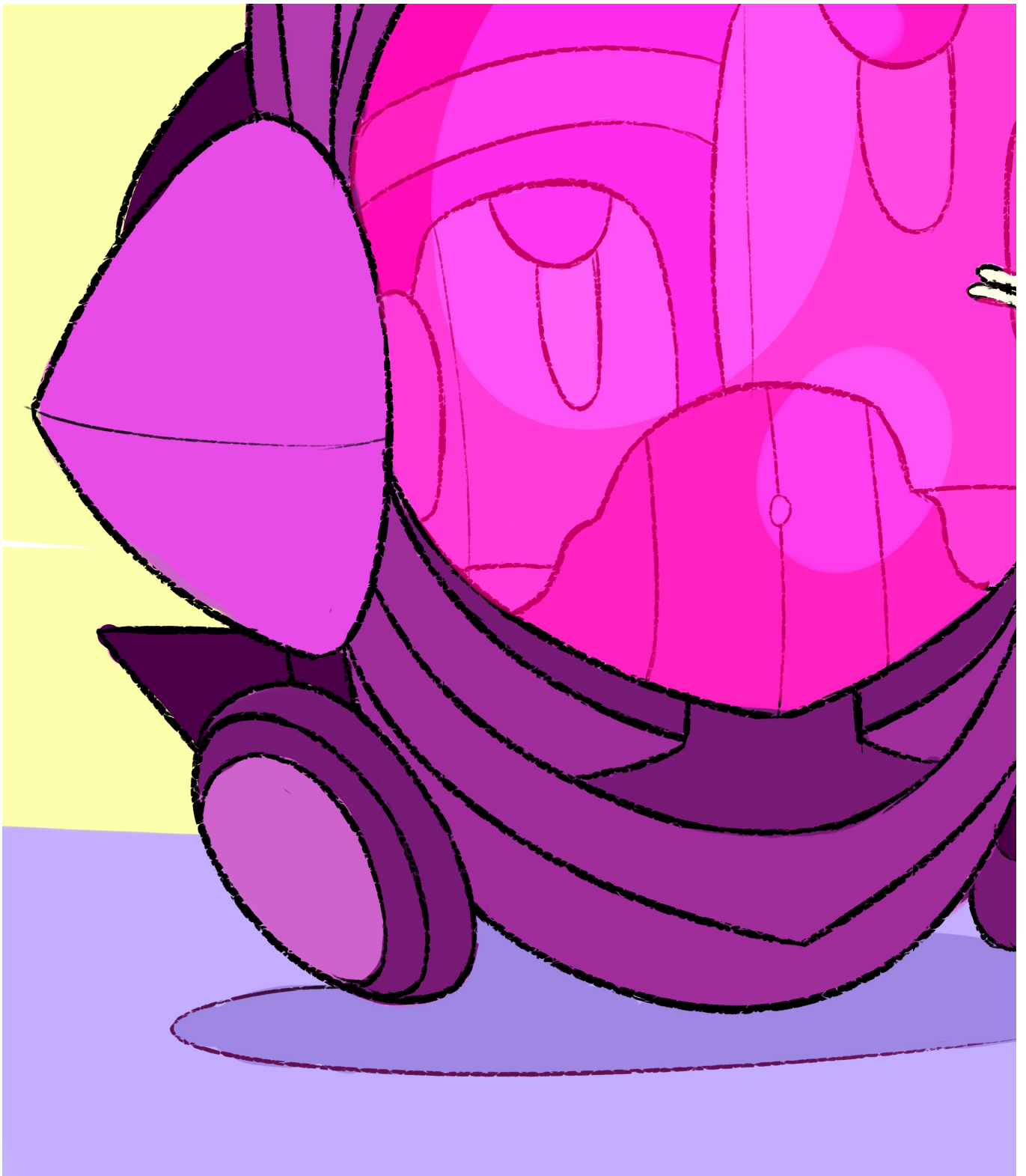
Skoodge, I had forgotten about him. He was my lackey back in the day. Considering how boring our academy training was, it's no wonder I wanted to escape to the surface with him. Tenn, I remember her as well. She was less impressionable than Skoodge was, much more cautious. Red and Purple chose not to join us. Or have anything to do with me.

Have I disappointed them? I know I've made a lot of mistakes, some bigger than others. Such as when my energy absorbing thingy ate Almighty Miyuki. I really wish they hadn't seen that. And now we're all in the court cafeteria. Everyone else is eating while I write this entry. Formality? I just now overheard two Irkens talking about the Evaluation. There's no way that can be right. WAIT. WHY DID THE TALLEST CALL IT A FORMALITY? OH THIS IS BAD. REALLY, REALLY BAD. THE EVALUATION IS RESUMING AND I WANT TO BE BACK ON EARTH ALREADY.

...

INVADER ZIM, SIGNING OFF.





## Chapter End Notes

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And here's my friend's art blog on Tumblr full of water and honey:

<https://seabeescribbles.tumblr.com/>



## Chapter 8

### Chapter Notes

Once again, thank you all so much for the comments, kudos and bookmarks! I've worked hard on writing all the chapters up to this point, but this one in particular is so game changing that I worked even harder than ever before! I don't want to keep you waiting any longer, so on with the show!

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

### **Log Entry #29. Invader Zim reporting.**

I'm back on Earth. With Pearl. I survived my Existence Evaluation and was even declared the "Most Incredible Irken Ever" by the Control Brains. That's very nice, but something feels off somehow. My glorious acts of obedience were shown, but the death of Tallest Spork was ALSO shown. I still can't believe that the Brains used TWO BLOB FLASHBACKS IN A ROW. THERE SHOULD BE A RULE AGAINST THAT.

I was an Invader trainee when Spork got eaten by my blob. And a military researcher when Miyuki was. She was a top-level scientist before being declared Tallest, he on the other hand was one of the elite soldiers. Their priorities differed. Then there was the failure of Operation Impending Doom. Yeah. Red called me a monster, and a curse to the Empire.

This greatly confused me, did he forget the Great Assigning? Seeing how deserving I was, assigning me to Earth, how could he have forgotten? I was going to use my inflatable version of Tallest Spork to escape from him and Purple, but suddenly I had another idea.

The Control Brains granted my request to show images from my present, and not just my past. This required the massive Irken crowd to leave. After all, my mission is a secret one. I wanted the Tallest to see what important work I was doing on Earth! The most important work!

What came next was unexpected. "YOU became FRIENDS with these Crystal Gems?!" the Brains asked incredulously. "NO! YOU MUST BE MISTAKEN! They're my greatest enemies and only occasionally my allies!" I was absolutely mortified. Red and Purple screwed their faces in disgust. Sparks shot out of the Brains and gibberish was issued from their speakers as my PAK's data flowed into them. Then they declared me "MOST INCREDIBLE IRKEN EVER" and that felt good! Only for a little while.

“NO!! YOU CAN’T DO THAT! He’s DEFECTIVE! You ALREADY ruled!” Purple was MAD. Before the Control Brains could respond, two guards appeared and alerted Red of a terrifying renegade Pearl. She caused a ruckus being moved from the Irken prison facility on Judgementia to Moo-Ping 10. That was my cue to leave. “LEAVING WITH YOUR FRIEND, ZIM?” The Brains asked as I ran out of there.

...

Invader Zim, signing off.

### **Log Entry #30. Invader Zim reporting.**

Friends? The very idea of me being friends with Pearl, or any Gem for that matter, is ridiculous! Friendship isn’t worth an Invader’s time. Invaders need no one. NO ONE. That being said, I do have concerns. And I’ve recently learned that it’s best to trust my gut feeling.

My SIR Unit and the hybrid, I fear their influence has made me softer and less aggressive. That I actually care about them. Am I not the same cold-blooded Irken who arrived on Earth? How long has it been since then, anyway? Nearly a year? And I haven’t gotten one step closer to victory.

The Control Brains may have declared me “THE MOST INCREDIBLE IRKEN EVER” but they were buzzing and insane. Was that all it was? Insane ramblings? Even so, the Tallest still assigned me the most important mission of this entire operation! This is how I regain their trust and confidence. Their confidence must have been shaken after the Existence Evaluation, which means I need to do the best job possible. That would make them forgive my past mistakes.

Why else would they send me to this planet if not to prove myself? Let’s say that the Tallest really did want to get rid of me, like Tak said. Why would they send me HERE and not some derelict rock nobody ever cared about? One of the most major conflicts in the history of our universe was based on here. The Crystal Gems still care about this planet a great deal! They believe in the value and sanctity of life, being your own person and taking on your own unique identity, all of that! Yeah!

Hmm. I should probably get around to undermining Earth’s defenses. Make it ripe for invasion or something.

...

Invader Zim, signing off.

### **Log Entry #31. Invader Zim reporting.**

Mirror-Zim missed me when I was gone. That isn't terribly surprising, I missed him too. Isn't that such a strange thing to say? Mirror-Zim is just another part of me, but not at the same time. Almost like a part of myself that I never knew existed.

Well, there is something else. Something which did surprise me to hear. I was telling Mirror-Zim about my experiences when GIR piped up. "Master! You were in trouble and I was supposed to call the Tallest for you, but THE MASTER IN THE MIRROR, HE WAS RIGHT." Right about what? This confused me. "The Tallest. They DIDN'T CARE AT ALL." Didn't care? Like, at all? "We worry about you so much! And so do those magical ladies, I don't know why you in the mirror hates them so much. Not like how you SAY that you hate them, but you really DON'T hate them, other master REALLY HATES THEM and I dunno why."

I didn't know how to feel at first, but now I do know and it's RAGE. WHY DO IRKEN ROBOT BRAINS KEEP INSISTING THAT I LIKE THE CRYSTAL GEMS? I REALLY DON'T, THEY'RE ENEMIES AND THAT'S ALL THEY'LL EVER BE TO ME. I can't stress this enough. It isn't just that, either. Mirror-Zim still has no faith in the Tallest, when I need him to reassure me the most. Not do the opposite and leave me unassured.

I hate this feeling, I really do. You know what the worst part is? That according to GIR, Mirror-Zim is a better Zim than THE ACTUAL ZIM. He loathes the Crystal Gems and there's no doubting that. Now I'm unsure myself, have I begun to enjoy this comfortable life on Earth too much? These ties make me weak. Not cold and ruthless, like an Invader needs to be! Without that evilness inherent in Irkens, I would feel so useless and pathetic. I need to do something drastic, in order to be free of emotional burdens. That something INVOLVES MY PAK. YES, I'LL START WORKING RIGHT AWAY.

...

Invader Zim, signing off.

### **LOG ENTRY #32. INVADER ZIM REPORTING.**



AAAAAAAGH!!! MY PAK!! IT'S GONE!! The countdown has already started, ten minutes to doom. Everything that I am is in that PAK! My memory drive, my charging cell, my atmospheric processor! MY ZIMNESS! I am NOT going to expire on this planet. There's absolutely no chance in HELL of that happening.

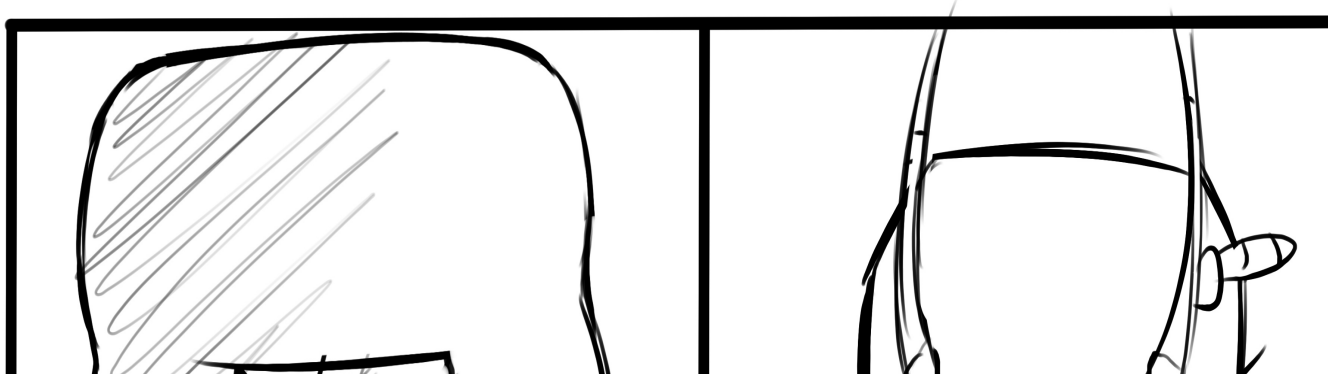
Altering my PAK didn't seem like a really bad idea at the time. Yes, I know that Commander Poki told me as a rookie to never, under any circumstances, remove my PAK. That the auxiliary brain is more important than the organic. But I've ignored my basic training before! I've even removed my PAK before, just never attempted modifying it. And do you know why I thought of doing such a thing? To eliminate all compassion!!! Only new modifications could do that!!!

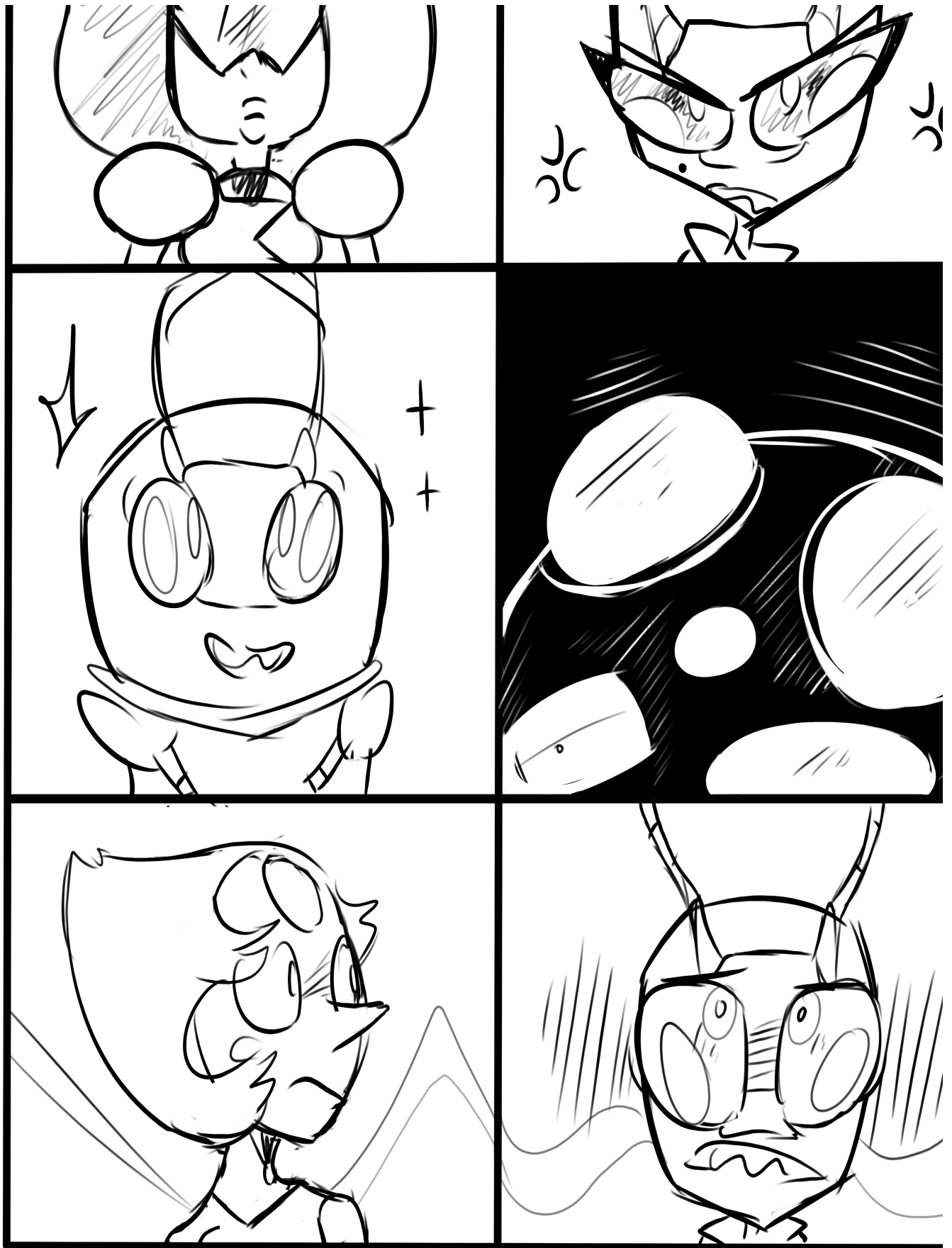
I never expected my PAK to go haywire. What went wrong? A PAK shouldn't be able to act outside the will of it's host, that doesn't make any sense! If a PAK is separated from it's host, it's supposed to attempt reconnecting with the original owner. Instead it rejected me, and has probably already begun to seek out another host. That's insulting. Am I not good enough for the PAK anymore, is that it? Well at least I'm good enough for SOMEONE on this planet. Feels pretty... wait... no...

Shut up, shut up!!! I'm not supposed to care about anyone!!! Not GIR... Steven and the Crystal Gems... I'm not even supposed to care what happens to me... or myself in the mirror. Life on Earth... I'm supposed to hate it...! And yet for some reason... it isn't so awful... I actually sort of like it.

I'm so weak. My body shell... it's begun deteriorating! Must reconnect with... GIR... GIR is... taking too long to find my PAK. And now I feel so alone... please... my... my Tallest. I need to contact the Tallest. That's what I'll do.

If this is indeed the last log... know that these have been meant for future generations who wish to learn from... no... no they're not. This is for you... Steven.





## Chapter End Notes

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And here's my friend's art blog on Tumblr full of water and honey:

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## Chapter 9

### Chapter Notes

The previous chapter sure was intense! Thank you to everyone commenting, bookmarking the story, and leaving kudos. This chapter is another one of my favorites, I love writing all the chapters of this story and I especially love to write sympathetic Zim. This arc has been worked on for a while, as always let me know what you think!

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

### Log Entry #33.

Scratch what I said about the previous entry being my last and final one! Of course it wasn't! Apparently my PAK rampaged inside the Crystal Temple, that must've been confusing for the Crystal Gems before GIR told them what had happened. The four rushed to my aid, of course they did.

They're so good. As an Invader I'm expected to be nothing like them. But I'm not an Invader. I haven't been for some time, the Tallest told me this themselves. I still remember lying on the cold hard floor, trying my best to explain the situation to them as I rapidly deteriorated in front of them.

I explained to the Tallest that I removed my PAK for them, so that I could be everything they ever wanted me to be. By modifying my PAK. I had bent the rules before, and I was positive Red and Purple would understand. Instead they laughed, viciously. And began to reveal such horrible truths to me.

That they always found me annoying, tried to get rid of me and hoped that I would die, were disappointed to discover that I was alive on Earth. In fact, I remember Purple saying "it took longer than we expected, but the chance to watch you die really is the best thing you've ever given us!" Well, I'm still alive, so it seems I couldn't even get that right.

JUST WHAT THE HELL DO I DO NOW??? INVADERS never stop until their mission is complete, however, I was never assigned a REAL MISSION to begin with!!! So Tak was actually telling the truth. Which means I owe Mirror-Zim an apology. I think even GIR caught on quicker than I did. And he was constructed from SCRAP PARTS. THAT'S RIGHT, I WAS SENT A JOKE ASSISTANT. I WAS ONLY EVER A MONSTEROUS JOKE, ONE THAT LONG OVERSTAYED IT'S WELCOME.

Why couldn't I have just died? At least that would make the hurting end. I have an idea, why don't I try to forget the whole thing never happened? I know the idea sounds far-fetched, but it wouldn't hurt to try. Right? This could work.

...

Zim, signing off.

### **Log Entry #34.**

THAT DIDN'T WORK AT ALL. I created a preferable reality to live in, but it faded after a few days. Back to actual reality, the terrible version. Also, suppressed anger recently came to the surface and I don't know who or what to direct it towards.

The Tallest? Why didn't they kill me right from the start? Why the "secret mission" nonsense? I'm sure the crowd from the Great Assigning would've cheered. Skoodge and Tenn were probably the only two people in the entire auditorium who wouldn't have.

The Crystal Gems? I had this thought recently: I've done more damage to the Irken Empire than the Resisty could ever hope to do. I pose as much of a threat to the Irken Empire as the Crystal Gems did to their Homeworld. And that's as a loyal soldier, not a rebel like them. Isn't that funny?

No. That's HORRIBLE. I NEED TO HOLD ON TO THIS ANGER. DIRECT IT TOWARDS THE CRYSTAL GEMS. LIKE PEARL AND THE... THE THINGS SHE DO. OH THAT'S JUST STUPID. NOW I'M REALLY MAD!!! I CAN FEEL MY POWER RISING. THIS IS INCREDIBLE. AND... I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO PROVE TO MYSELF. THAT I CAN WIN AGAINST THE GEMS. ONE MORE MATCH! ONE MORE MATCH!!!

...

Zim, signing off.

### **Log Entry #35.**

What was the title Mirror-Zim once suggested I claim? Emperor Zim? Yes! Emperor Zim! As Emperor Zim, I'll make sure Steven and his father Greg get special treatment and won't have to live in that crummy van anymore.

I'll use the MEGADOOMER to annihilate the Crystal Gems. I've been wanting to pilot the walker since it first fell from the sky months ago. This is something I have to do, for the sake of my pride. And then, like I said, this world will be ruled with an iron fist. EVERYONE WILL BE FORCED TO OBEY THE FIST.

I'll ask GIR to build me a throne. Humans will cower in fear before my superior Irken might, cool flames shooting up behind me. I DON'T NEED THE TALLEST TO BE AMAZING, FORGET THEM. YOU KNOW WHAT??? I NEVER NEEDED ANYONE!!! I CERTAINLY DON'T NEED THESE VOICES IN MY HEAD WHICH HAVE BEEN WHISPERING AND LAUGHING FOR QUITE A WHILE NOW.

I can't wait for the voices to stop that. And for the nightmares to finally be over. Now then, onward to victory! SWEET VICTORY FOR ZIM!!!

...

Zim, signing off.

### **Log Entry #36.**

Well, I did it. I won against the Crystal Gems. It was a hard-fought battle, even using the Megadoomer I found myself struggling at times. Of course, I hit a few snags. First, I realized there were no batteries when I attempted switching the machine on. Then, I plugged the Megadoomer into an outlet to get it to work. It lost power. Twice. I asked GIR to find me new outlets. This was going to be perfect, and those were minor, fleeting inconveniences.

"PREPARE YOURSELVES FOR THE END, CRYSTAL GEMS!" I cried. "I've put up with you long enough! Now, fight an enemy you cannot see!" I laughed evilly, choked, and laughed some more. Then Pearl remarked, "You're right there, Zim." What? I tilted my head to the side and scooted over. "There!" Amethyst pointed at me. "Your cloaking device only cloaks the robot, but we can see you!"

"Silence! Now, behold the doom canon!" I yelled. The Crystal Gems were unimpressed, Garnet

shrugged and said. “We can’t. Like Amethyst said, it’s invisible and we can only see you.” There were a few moments of silence as I tried to process the information. Then I remembered GIR trying to tell me about the Megadoomer’s flaws. At the time I simply ignored him and continued to pilot my robot. Onward to victory. I was not about to be **ROBBED OF THAT VICTORY**.

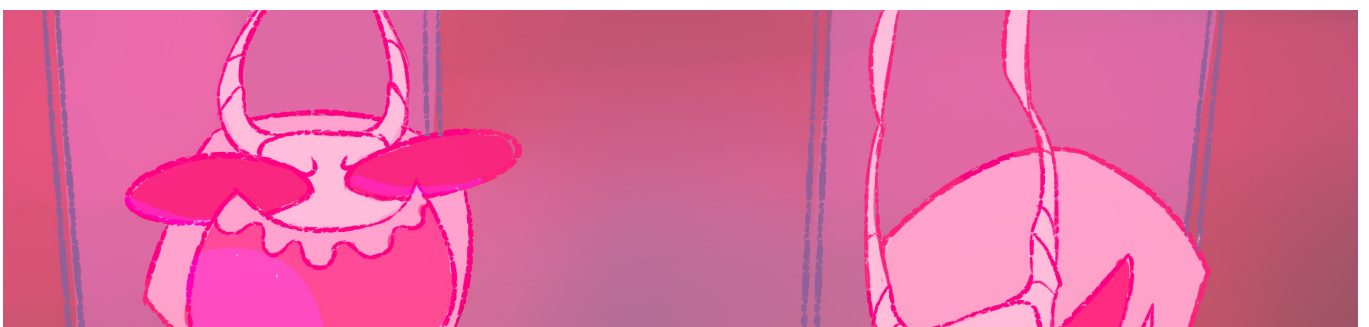
**THE CRYSTAL GEMS WERE ABOUT TO MEET THEIR HORRIBLE DOOM, EVEN IF IT DOOMED ME AS WELL.** Forget the invisibility, a combat stealth mech still had **OTHER** functions. **SO MANY WEAPONS, I WOULD JUST USE THEM ALL.** I didn’t have my head on straight at the time. In the middle of all this, my walker’s missiles ended up destroying both my ship and Pearl’s. This time, they were damaged beyond repair.

And Pearl lost it. She and the other Crystal Gems were on the defensive, losing the battle. Then, seeing her ticket to the stars destroyed, she had what I can only describe as a rage boost. I essentially brought her down to my level and I think she wanted to kill me. At least in that moment. The rest of my memories feel hazy to me. Her attempting to break through the cockpit door, it scared me. The fear consumed me. My emotions, they overwhelmed me. This next part... I don’t want to talk about this next part. It pains me to have to talk about this.

I cried. That’s why Pearl couldn’t bring herself to kill me, because I burst into tears and poured my heart out to her. Even seeing that I had a heart, I think was enough. Was she still upset with me? Undoubtedly, but regardless she saved me from certain death before the Megadoomer exploded, with me inside it. The earlier “**POWER DRAW CRITICAL**” alert slipped my mind. Very slippery mind indeed, the blasted robot’s power was growing constantly and Pearl helped me out of the cockpit. At the expense of being poofed. I can’t believe I’m saying this, but I miss her presence. The guilt is strong, my anger has dissipated. I caught the other two Gems up to speed on everything, both are currently outside of the barn talking between themselves. I feel small. Smaller than ever, and I didn’t know that was even possible.

...

Invader Zim, signing off.







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And here's my friend's art blog on Tumblr full of water and honey:

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# Chapter 10

## Chapter Notes

God, I know I say this a lot but it really does mean a lot to me that people read this story. Thanks so much for leaving your comments and kudos, I even saw fans of the story discussing how they think the story will go in the previous chapter. Seriously, why are you guys so amazing??? I'm thrilled that you enjoy Zim's redemption arc and this chapter is the culmination of that arc!!!

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

### Log Entry #37.

It's been two weeks between log entries. Since the previous one, Garnet has explained to me that the monsters they fight actually used to be Gems themselves. Gems that became corrupted and broken. I didn't ask Garnet how this happened, I suspect it has something to do with the Gem Rebellion. I did, however, ask how long it would take for Pearl to reappear, as she assured me that this has happened in the past. Pearl will reappear as soon as she gathers enough energy to heal.

I still can't believe I feel this miserable. I'm just now realizing that the Tallest were my real enemy all along. Unlike the Crystal Gems, I don't hate my former leaders. That's because I don't have strong emotional ties to memories of Irk. I did a lot of hopping around from place to place, as a result I have more fond memories of space travel than I do of my own planet. Shouldn't it be hard not to have some feelings for where you came from?

Now that both Irken ships have been destroyed, Earth is home. Seemingly forever. When did I start liking this place? Was it when GIR and I began to watch those inane TV programs? Perhaps when I found the mirror, and someone I could tell absolutely everything. Maybe even earlier than that. Garnet, Amethyst, and Pearl. Even early on, I respected Garnet for her leadership skills, that along with her impressive height. She's been very forgiving this entire time. Strong, yet compassionate. If she wasn't so compassionate, I would almost certainly be dead by this point. Eh, hooray for compassion and understanding!

Amethyst has reached out her hand to me the most. I remember when she stayed with me for the Galactic Equinox several months ago. Any life form in a galaxy far from home goes through a hideous molt during the alignment once a year. Any organic life-form, that is. I developed an itchy rash on my neck and felt repulsive! Yet Amethyst helped me feel slightly less repulsive. Then she began inviting me to these wrestling matches of hers. The Purple Puma is TOTALLY SICK. Amethyst sometimes uses the phrase, apparently bad can also mean good.

And as for Pearl? I don't know what happened, at first I loathed her presence. Flash forward a year and her missing presence... it depresses me. Well, she is the one always saving me from danger, and we can also bond over our love of space travel. I realize the two of us have a fair bit in common. We're both perfectionist neat freaks who love to talk. WHY WON'T YOU JUST REGENERATE ALREADY, PEARL? I WANNA TELL YOU WHERE I'M AT EMOTIONALLY.

...

Zim, signing off.

### **Log Entry #38.**

PEARL'S BACK. I TOLD HER WHERE I'M AT EMOTIONALLY. And we had something of a heart to heart. There was a lot I needed to get off my chest. I didn't want to sound like I was complaining or trying to play the victim. Pearl assured me that I had nothing to fear, venting in a positive and healthy manner is wonderful. Ranting and raving isn't healthy, though. I can express my feelings by talking in a calm and rational manner. OH BY THE WAY, HER NEW OUTFIT IS INCREDIBLE.

I cared for her gemstone the entire time she was gathering energy. And the regeneration was a spectacle to behold! Pearl's gemstone glowed, flew up, and hovered in the air as I stood atop the hill next to her cherry blossom tree. It's a particularly fine specimen of a tree, and I can see why it's her favorite. Does Pearl have a lot on her mind whenever she's here? Maybe one day she'll tell me more about her own failed purpose, whatever that is.

The Crystal Gems have their secrets, and I respect that, but I want to prove that I have no secrets to hide! Not anymore! Wait, maybe I should keep the whole thing with the mirror a secret. Mirror-Zim isn't very fond of the Crystal Gems for whatever reason, sort of a reflection of how I once was. I'll cross that bridge when I come to it. Or maybe I won't. I dunno. Pearl has been reunited with Garnet and Amethyst! I would like to give all three a history lesson after their happy moment. Like I said, there are secrets that are no longer mine alone to know.

...

Zim, signing off.

## Log Entry #39.

The creation of the Irken Empire connects back to the Great Diamond Authority. They were furious over the death of one of their own and deemed Earth no longer fit to be a colony. Homeworld commanders then ordered their troops to begin a mass retreat before the last-ditch attempt. One final all-out attack marked the end of the Rebellion.

Pearl and Garnet were surprised by how much I knew. The former stated that their leader, Rose Quartz, was able to protect them both with her shield. They were her closest friends. Other Crystal Gems weren't so lucky. The Diamonds were unaware of the attack's effects, as they intended on wiping the opposition all out. You could make the argument that corruption is a fate worse than death.

Shortly after the fighting ended, attempts were made by the remaining members of the Diamond Authority to colonize other planets across the universe. Suitable ones, which were exploited through their advanced facilities. One of those planets was my own! That's right! Irk, capital of the Irken Empire, was invaded by superior beings thousands of years ago! Ironical, isn't it? The Gems that invaded Earth were surprised when they found intelligent life. This was during caveman days. Can you imagine their reaction to discovering a race as advanced as modern day humans?

Irkens at that time engaged in horrific campaigns of attacks, raiding and psychological warfare against their rival units. There was no end in sight to the Irken Civil War, not until Gems began to colonize. And they initially appealed to us! At least until they began pushing. They just kept pushing, so we felt justified waging war and breaking away from them. We had assistance from our neighbors in the planetary system, and this forced invading Gems out of the planet. 3,900 years later and we've picked up on their culture. Everything from the obsession with height culminating in the Tallest rank's inception, to the development of PAKs and Control Brains.

A lot has changed since those days. There are now thousands of different intelligent life forms! The Diamond Authority is a great many things, not a lot of them good, but genocidal isn't one of them. Those big losses convinced the Diamonds to conquer planets with only plants and animals and all that. Keeping to themselves, as the Irken Empire similarly conquers primitive planets. In recent years, intergalactic warlords and conquerors (the Chimera Sui Generis comes to mind) have begun to establish themselves. The universe is a very big and scary place.

The Crystal Gems were visibly unnerved by this information and I can understand why. Knowing that their Gem Homeworld had such a big effect on my organic species? Yeah, it's a lot to take in! I've assured them that efforts are being made to put the past behind me. EARTH IS A PLACE WHERE I FEEL AT HOME. RED AND PURPLE WERE TOO BLIND TO SEE MY WORTH AND I LIKE THAT THE CRYSTAL GEMS CAN ACTUALLY SEE IT. DESPITE EVERYTHING. Alright Control Brains, you were right. I wasn't very talkative in the two weeks I spent waiting for Pearl to get back, GIR and Mirror-Zim must be wondering what's up with me!

Oh my faithful companions.

...

Zim, signing off.

### **Log Entry #40.**

GIR and I were talking and he asked if his master became a Crystal Gem too. I initially laughed at this. “No I’m not joining the Crystal Gems! I don’t even have a gemstone! And my body is organic. Mostly organic unless you count the PAK. Don’t be silly, GIR.” Then I started thinking to myself. Wouldn’t it be nice if I was accepted as one of them? I would love that, actually.

The Crystal Gems have a mission to protect humanity and contain Corrupted Gems. Well it’s in my nature as an Irken to undertake a mission. I don’t know what drives us to do so, but we also need someone to take up an idol-like role. GIR, Mirror-Zim, Steven and the Crystal Gems. I think they can fulfill that role, and I don’t have to go to ridiculous lengths just for any kind of attention or praise. They still care about me, even after everything. I’m not alone on this planet. I choose it as my home.

THIS IS GONNA SOUND CRAZY. BUT. GARNET, AMETHYST, AND PEARL WALKED INSIDE THE BARN RIGHT AS I WAS ABOUT TO ASK IF I COULD BECOME LIKE THEM. Garnet told me that this was an outcome she saw with her third eye, albeit an unlikely and even somewhat ridiculous one. I finally know what the freaky third eye is for! It’s a good thing she held out hope and didn’t entirely overlook the possibility. Pearl said that if I want to become a Crystal Gem, I have to start training. And Amethyst said she’s happy I’m not out to get them anymore, she has a cool new nickname for me, Zim Zam the SpaceMan.

I’ll get used to my new nickname eventually. GIR is ecstatic, and has pointed out that I need a star. What if I buy a gold star lapel pin? Yeah, that can work. Maybe someday I’ll wear something other than the Invader uniform, but that’s too much change, too fast. Speaking of which, I told Mirror-Zim about all this, and there was a brief, incredulous silence. “If this - makes - you happy - then so am - I - but tell - me - if they - betray your trust - and - I will - make them suffer.” Well that’s... ominous. I appreciate the gesture? Oh, one last thing. Red and Purple may be pretty tall, but they’ll never feel as big as I do today.

...

Zim, signing off!

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## Chapter End Notes

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# Chapter 11

## Chapter Notes

Steven Universe Future... I am so excited!!! And the Archive was down for maintenance earlier today but now I'm ready! Zim as a Crystal Gem is something that a lot of you have been waiting for, and I really enjoyed writing this chapter. I honestly enjoy writing all chapters. Please leave a comment and kudos if you haven't already, it's been a busy week and I'll reply to all the comments you guys left last time!

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

### Log Entry #41.

The training has begun. Pearl took me to a Sky Arena and we proceeded to spar there. I relished the chance to engage in combat with her once again! A simple spar and not a battle to the death, but I still gave her all that I've got! Pearl ultimately won the duel. The mechanical spider legs were used during our first battle and she seemed to be a lot better prepared for them. This time she was able to block and dodge my attacks effortlessly. After the match was over, I was congratulated for being a good sparring partner. My confidence swelled.

Then Pearl summoned what she referred to as Holo-Pearl, a holographic representation of Pearl as the name implies. She initiated training mode and the hologram continuously chanted "Parry! Parry! Thrust!" I paid close attention to her center of gravity, oh and everything begins with the stance! I don't use a sword like she does so I continue to use my versatile PAK. The spider legs alone serve as a mode of transportation, laser cutters, a shield generator and sharp weapons. I would have to say the laser guns are what gave her the most trouble during our sparring match. Before we left the cloud temple, Pearl told me that she's going to help perfect my skills, rather than teach me to become a knight. Sounds good.

The Arena is ancient! So ancient that some of the first battles between Gems were held here. I don't think GIR understands the significance of this place, neither does Amethyst for that matter. Which is odd because she's a Gem. The three of us have started going to eat at this place named Aqua-Mexican. I still don't know how Amethyst can wrestle as the Purple Puma after eating so much! It's not as if she needs to eat. Or sleep, that's another thing she does. My theory is that she does it because it's fun, and to remove stress from Pearl and Garnet's orders.

Garnet is in control of everything as current leader of the Crystal Gems. There are some questions I would like to ask her, after I integrate myself into the group more. How does she feel about being the leader? I know that she's only the leader due to Rose Quartz's death, but she's a remarkably good one. GIR tells me that she sometimes goes on her on missions. Where's her room? My probe wasn't able to capture pictures of her room, does she stay in the lava room? If so, that's a pretty



incredible room to stay in. And these aren't the only questions Crystal Gem Zim has for her. Crystal Gem Zim. I've grown to love the sound of that. Crystal Gem Zim! Woo!!!

Zim, signing off.

#### **Log Entry #42.**

Three months later and the training goes well! Pearl says I've made real, visible improvements and that soon I'll be able to take on whatever those Corrupted Gems can throw at me!!! Now I understand why the Gems were so hesitant to destroy those monsters, they were allies against the Homeworld Gems. I wonder if the Crystal Gems sometimes wish their friends were destroyed and not corrupted. The fallen Crystal Gems have completely lost themselves, not even ROSE QUARTZ could find a way to cure them. I know it's a dark thing to say, but there are some fates worse than death.

For now the Crystal Gems can only contain their corrupted former friends, no cure in sight. I suggested to Garnet that Steven, being the son of Rose, could one day find one. I know the boy will be taught how to use his powers as he grows up. For some reason, I have a feeling he'll end up being better than all of us. That's what happens in a lot of the movies GIR and I watch. Even his name sounds heroic and important. STEVEN UNIVERSE.

Lately I've started meeting up with Steven's father, Greg. I genuinely want to get to know Beach City citizens more, become more friendly and social with the people I'm trying to protect. GIR raved about the man's music. I think he's listened to "Comet" about 100 times or some crazy number like that. Greg loves talking about his music and now offers free ukulele lessons, perhaps I shall take him up on his offer sometime! First I have to learn what a ukulele is.

Oh! Steven has started talking!!! After months of vocalizing and verbal experimentation, he's finally past cooing and his first real word was "dada" to Greg. Words can't even describe how happy the man was, I was there too. Y'know, Irkens aren't supposed to feel pride in someone else. Well I happen to think it's SEVERELY underrated.

...

Zim, signing off.

#### **Log Entry #43.**

Today I ended up raiding a thrift store! Initially, my only goal was to buy a gold star lapel pin. Now GIR is the proud owner of what he refers to as a “mongoose-dog” suit which is green with a zipper on the stomach and a head that can be pulled over. Sort of like a hoodie. Humans wear a lot of different types of clothes and shoes, unlike Irkens. Even the Gems only change their appearance when reforming. Amethyst is the exception as her wrestling alter-ego. ALL THOSE MUSCLES.

And I have a gold star lapel pin. Finally, a star of my own! Yesterday I was able to defeat all the holograms Pearl summoned to fight me! That was so amazing! Pearl expressed her pride, and I was able to save GIR when one of the Holo-Pearls identified him as an unregistered combatant. Not gonna lie, that was a little scary for me. Just a little. But it served as an even more effective training. If I have to protect GIR, Steven, or any weak and vulnerable humans from some terrible threat. Pearl called the humans that, so it’s okay to say. I think.

After the song sessions with Greg, which are also going well, I have decided to talk to EVEN MORE weak and vulnerable humans. I should care about more than just Steven and Greg! At the perfect time, in the middle of a restaurant war fought between the fry humans and pizza humans. Not literal fry and pizza humans, they aren’t made out of food, those are their actual names. It took FOREVER for GIR and I to get any stinking food. Eventually a treaty was signed AND WE COULD ALL FINALLY EAT. Fry humans, pizza humans, aliens and robots all eating together. That’s the meaning of life.

Two children were looking at GIR and I funny. Heh, almost like they’d seen an alien and a robot. One was clearly a member of the fry family, the other must be his friend. Can you believe they didn’t even ask the alien and his robot any questions? Were they too scared to talk? The other kids weren’t. There were two sisters, they were members of the pizza family. Oh and the older girl’s friends. I’ve noticed that young girls often gravitate towards the cute little half-robot and half-doggy and young boys do so with the gross bug man straight out of a sci fi. Nice to know we’re a big hit with the kids!

...

Zim, signing off.

#### **Log Entry #44.**

Another three months have gone by. I’ve finished my training with Pearl, and you know what that means. ZIM’S OFFICIALLY A CRYSTAL GEM, BABY! FIGHTING MONSTERS AND SHARING EMOTIONS. THAT’S THE WAY IT’S DONE AND I’VE GOT THIS DOWN.

Engaging in battle wasn't part of my plan for today. Instead I thought today would be the same as any other. GIR and I watched Floopsy Bloops Shmoopsy, then Mirror-Zim and I shared series finale theories. Yes, the series finale! Finally!!! After 300 something seasons, this repetitive inconsistent show comes to an end. I'm ashamed of my obsession with it. Hopefully that teen drama set to air this weekend is better written, Mirror-Zim remembers the name. Something about campers?

Drat! I always get distracted talking about shows. Well I'm not the only one who gets distracted. The Gem monster I ended up defeating in battle was first defeated by Pearl. Before the monster's gemstone could properly be bubbled, Amethyst and Pearl began bickering. Over what? Wait, I don't need to know. Amethyst accidentally hit Pearl, and their enemy escaped. It was decided by Garnet that I come along the second try. My suspicion? Is that Garnet foresaw Pearl shifting into teacher mode.

That ended the infighting. After arriving at our destination via Warp Pad, Amethyst suggested a new nickname, which, I don't know how I feel about. Intruder Jim. I am Zim! Not Jim! And I was enthralled by the sight of an Ancient Gem Colony Ship, not really paying attention to anything else Amethyst said. Pearl was quick to teach me about the derelict vessel, Gems used these before the creation of a warp system to travel to Earth. Amethyst was annoyed being cut off in the middle of a sentence. Well I was annoyed by the nickname.

Garnet led on and the four of us walked past the ship, which had long been abandoned and overgrown with wildlife. I hope to one day enter inside, study the screens and transmitters. Never seen a ship quite as old. Enough about that, the light green Corrupted Gem made it's appearance not too long after we arrived. Wouldn't you know it, the monster was stalking us the entire time we were searching for it. Bipedal, with two long legs and no eyes. The mouth was the scariest part, that's ALWAYS the scariest part. IT WAS GOING TO EAT ME. SORT OF LIKE WHEN THE OTHER MONSTER NEARLY ATE STEVEN AND GREG. AAAGH!

The Crystal Gems gave a surprisingly bad performance. They saved me from BEING EATEN but were then outsmarted by the beast! Are all monsters this difficult? Even for warriors of Amethyst and Pearl's caliber? Who are led by a GREATER warrior??? One who can see into the future??? I took a moment to compose myself, then quickly realized that a great chance emerged. As the Gems kept their opponent busy, I used my mechanical spider legs to tower over all. I now had a height advantage. So I took a rock AND THREW IT AT THE CORRUPTED GEM. BULLSEYE. JUST LIKE WHEN I THREW GIR LAST TIME. Amethyst was right, this little guy DOES have arm strength! Garnet thanked me for the help, and Pearl was particularly proud of her pupil!!! Another GLORIOUS DAY... and THERE'S MORE to come. I promise!

...

Zim, signing off.

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## Chapter End Notes

All artwork is done by my friends!

Friend's Ao3 account:

<https://archiveofourown.org/users/Cookiemonster2000/pseuds/Cookiemonster2000>

Friend's Invader Zim sideblog: <https://vampirepiggyhunterdefensesquad.tumblr.com/>

And here's my friend's Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/thecookieshoparts/>

## Chapter 12

### Chapter Notes

As you will see, this chapter contains a time skip. The following chapter does as well. There may even be two time skips in this chapter alone! Don't worry, the Steven Universe part of the story is chapter fourteen, so you won't have to wait along. And this chapter not only contains more character development for Zim, but will also be setting things up for the future!

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

### Log Entry #45.

I've officially been living on Earth for five years! The Earth year is 2006. Just five years ago I was a space invader, cackling maniacally and trying to take over Earth. Now I... still cackle. But slightly less maniacally! And I help keep Earth safe from monsters and other threats. My first mission was a success and the job only got easier as time went on.

Amethyst and I have even begun a contest of sorts. Who can get the most "kills." We're not REALLY killing anything so I don't know why she refers to these victories as such. I have 13 and she has 19. Amethyst initially had the lead but I've started to catch up. When is a winner decided? Is there even a winner?? Perhaps the game goes on. Pearl assured us that she's staying neutral, and yet, Amethyst accuses her of favoring me. Her star pupil. Garnet says it doesn't matter who poofs the monsters, we just need to make sure they can't hurt anyone from inside their bubbles.

I agree, that is the most important thing. Well it can't hurt to make things a bit more interesting! Life on Earth is interesting. Plenty of things that I enjoy. Like the Camp Pining Hearts show! Sooooo much better than Floopsy Bloopsy Shmoopsy. The writers ruined the show by the end. Mirror-Zim and I spend hours talking about our favorite characters, plotlines, and ships. Not the ships that are used to fly, oh no. Shipping is derived from the word relationship, our desire for characters to be in relationships. That's something I learned from message boards. That and canonheads. Excuse me, headcanons.

Another thing I enjoy about Earth is being around people who care about me. Of course the Crystal Gems, and the Universe family! Steven is five years old now which means he can walk and talk. Our conversations aren't deep or anything, I still appreciate him though. Steven is the friendliest, most compassionate person I've ever known. He also looks up to the Crystal Gems. All of us, including me. Him and GIR already go on their own adventures and he's made it clear that he wants to be a hero one day! Certainly has the potential!! Optimism and compassion are traits of successful heroes. STEVEN UNIVERSE. A great future hero!!!

...

Zim, signing off.

### **Log Entry #46.**

Steven can play ukulele pretty well! Always practicing his skills, I know the musical inclination comes from his father. Greg taught me how to play the ukulele as well. A quaint little instrument. Unlike Steven, I haven't spent much time practicing. My schedule is too busy for that. Fighting monsters, watching new episodes of Camp Pining Hearts, now even building a house! An entire house!

Construction of said house is a group effort. It's Steven's future home and an entrance to the Crystal Temple. Boy is he excited to live with the Gems. Unfortunately he won't be living with them anytime soon at the rate we're going. Not that we're doing... BADLY but SO MUCH WORK goes into this. It's insane. Greg said a project like this will take a long time and Steven is already writing songs about his future experiences with the Gems. That's right, he wrote an entire song. Which is incredible at his young age.

IT SOUNDS REALLY GOOD. AND I'M NOT JUST SAYING THAT BECAUSE STEVEN WROTE IT. "We Are the Crystal Gems" is sort of the official theme now. I may know how to play ukulele but Steven is so gifted that Greg is already running out of things to teach him! Despite his talent, Steven was still nervous about playing his song to the Gems. Eventually he did, I jokingly threatened to destroy the Gems if they didn't like it. Amethyst said I didn't need to do that because they would like it even if it was bad. Pearl agreed.

So if you're evil and you're on the rise, you can count on the five of us taking you down. 'Cause we're good and evil never beats us. We'll win the fight and then go out for pizza! Handful of the lyrics. Garnet, Amethyst, Zim, Pearl, and Steven! ZIM smack-dab in the middle. Perfection! Everybody liked the song and we hugged Steven. Construction continues tomorrow, and this Crystal Gem's motivation is sky-high!

...

Zim, signing off.

## **Log Entry #47.**

I haven't updated in a year, something crazy happened today! Another Irken arrived on Earth... and they were actually really friendly!! Skoodge. An old acquaintance whom I never thought I would see again.

When I first saw an Irken ship in the sky, my fears began to get the better of me. Sure I've faced countless monsters in combat, and survived Tak, but things looked unfathomably worse. What if the Tallest somehow found out that I wasn't dead? And they sent a skilled Invader to do the job? It wouldn't matter if the Crystal Gems defeated one Irken, I'm sure we could. The larger Irken Empire is what concerns me. I want the Armada as far away from this planet as POSSIBLE.

All the Crystal Gems were in our battle positions, myself leading the charge. Normally Garnet is the one to do that. She said it herself, more my fight than theirs. If I hadn't recognized Skoodge, there would've been a massacre. The guy isn't even an Invader anymore! After conquering Blorch, he was fired from the main cannon of the Massive! Because the Tallest are jerks and didn't like the idea of Skoodge as poster boy. Then he went on to test with trainees from all over the universe on Hobo 13, hoping for a promotion.

He told an incredible story, there were countless gruesome trials, but, miraculously, he made it to the Fortress of Pain. Only some of his teammates didn't make it. Sergeant 678 congratulated him, then challenged Skoodge to a duel. Even after winning, the Tallest STILL didn't give him his promotion. They're the worst! I suppose it's a good thing they locked his new ship's controls and set him on a crash collision course for the sun. He escaped with somebody named Bob.

Skoodge began his search for me, but then started hearing rumors of my death. Nobody else would want to look for me. And he never gave out hope. He's conversing with the Crystal Gems, they can fill him in about my Earth adventures while I look for Steven. Introducing new friends to old ones. Is this the first time I've called him a friend? Hmm. Personal growth!

...

Zim, signing off.

## **Log Entry #48.**

Not just personal growth, Skoodge said I've grown taller since we last saw each other. The reason



is because Irkens are arthropods that never stop growing. Evolution didn't program a natural limit to our lives like it did to humans. They stop growing when they become young adults. Obviously Gems don't age. Something seems to have activated in my PAK, I presume me staying healthy and active on Earth helped promote growth hormones. From three feet to three and a half feet!

Steven endeared himself like he always does. So much so that Skoodge decided to help with a little project. Several holo-schematics were implemented, and it felt good to work on a project such as this once again. As we assembled the necessary elements, Skoodge took note of how much I had changed since we last saw each other. Still a tiny bit volatile, but a marked change in disposition for the better. That sounds about right. Skoodge also let me know that he was impressed to see I survived. I told him "you know Zim, too stubborn to die!"

So we continued working. Implementing a state of the art propulsion system, advanced arm-thingies, and the most unquestionably loyal robot brain in the whole universe! No, even more unquestioningly! "More unquestioningly?" Yes! And I told Skoodge not to question me again. There was one last thing. Vortian scientist and prisoner 777 needed to send some insanely powerful weapons. I knew him from my days as a scientist, it sure is too bad Vort was conquered. A massive amount of things had come together at the replicator pad installed in my forward command center. Lastly was the pod, in purple! What a nice guy, that 777.

All these elements were assembled, pieces swirling around and forming into something beautiful! An incredible light show, and us Irkens smiled through it all. I wanted Garnet, Amethyst, Pearl, and Steven present for the unveiling. Not a fearsome weapon of mass destruction, though experimental doomsday technology WAS built into it, AN INCREDIBLE COMPANION FOR STEVEN! MINIMOOSE! He's got nubs! And they can also be used as nubs of DOOM! A floating stuffed animal. Purple, nose-less moose. Not only does Steven have a new playmate, but a new protector as well!!

Skoodge left after the construction of Minimoose was complete. Said something about tracking down Tenn? He'll give me a call if things ever go south. Minimoose is a total success, and I feel great about myself.

...

Zim, signing off.





## Chapter End Notes

All artwork is done by my friends!

Friend's Ao3 account:

<https://archiveofourown.org/users/Cookiemonster2000/pseuds/Cookiemonster2000>

Friend's Invader Zim sideblog: <https://vampirepiggyhunterdefensesquad.tumblr.com/>

And here's my friend's Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/thecookieshoparts/>

## Chapter 13

### Chapter Notes

And here we are! At the final chapter of the Invader Zim Arc!! It's only the first of four story arcs, not including Steven Universe: the Movie and Steven Universe Future. I'm going to write a sequel fic later down the line continuing the events after Change Your Mind. For now I hope you've enjoyed reading as I take a brief two-to-four week hiatus. Let me know what you think, I can't stress enough how much I thrive off of feedback!

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

### Log Entry #49.

Today is the tenth anniversary of when I arrived on Earth!! Isn't that exciting?! I can't believe it's been such a long time. There have been plenty of new developments since the previous log entry. I'm now four feet tall! Amethyst's exact height, no longer a foot shorter! That's not even counting the antenna. Oh and my "kill count" has surpassed hers as well. She's at 38 and I'm at 39.

Pearl has begun to berate Amethyst more and more for slacking off. "You should be more like Zim, he gives his all." Their relationship has been strained for as long as I've known them, but the fights are more frequent these days. Pearl and I always compliment each other's skills and admire each other's techniques. And I've only known Pearl for ten years, which is nothing compared to the thousands of years Amethyst has. Apparently they used to have a closer relationship, it had begun deteriorating shortly before my arrival. Could Rose's death have had something to do with it?

I try not asking too many questions about Rose Quartz. I did ask Pearl once, after a light sparring session years ago. Everything Pearl did was for Rose. She took great pride in knowing all of Rose's secrets, considering herself the "sole confidant." Now that Rose is gone, everything Pearl does is for Steven. I think she's the closest thing to a mother figure Steven has. And to think she nearly pulled out his gemstone trying to bring Rose back. EVERYTHING would be different if she actually went through with the idea.

Steven!! He's an adolescent!! Due to his isolated upbringing, Pearl and I have been the ones to educate him. So he possesses a good deal of knowledge without having attended conventional schools. Unfortunately, both Pearl and I are oblivious about some human activities. How are we supposed to teach what we don't know? His powers haven't developed and he has no experience, but the potential is there. He'll start to tag along on missions, and someday become the team's leader. When that day comes, this good soldier will follow orders.

...

Zim, signing off.

### **Log Entry #50.**

I was talking to the “Cool Kids” earlier today, a group of teenagers consisting of Buck Dewey, Jenny Pizza, and Sour Cream. I’ve known them since they were adolescents and even used to babysit them from time to time. To this day I still get political favors and pizza coupons from their families.

According to them, there’s going to be a special autograph signing in Empire City. “What happens in Empire City, never sleeps.” Doesn’t really make much sense to me. Anyway, I need to take Steven to this autograph signing! The perfect present for his eleventh birthday! He’s such a big fan of these heroes, they’re world-famous unlike the Crystal Gems. I actually want to meet them myself. I found out about them via news reports years ago, three artificially made humans and a human who can transform into aliens!! What incredible teenagers!

The question then arises... how do we get there? If only I had my Voot Cruiser, then there wouldn’t be any problem. We can’t use a Warp Pad either. Do we walk there? Take a train? Maybe a bus? I’ll figure something out. Eventually... hopefully... maybe. Wait! Greg once said he wanted to visit Empire City, all three of us can go on a trip to the bustling metropolis! I’ll tell Greg about my plan. GIR and Minimoose should also come along, the Gems probably wouldn’t be interested so it’ll just be us five.

I tell Greg my plan, we purchase tickets online, he drives his van to Empire City, and the teenage superheroes sign autographs for Steven. We’ll also be listening to Greg’s mix of 80’s tunes on the way there, my favorite is “Starlight.” Of course, we head to Empire City through Jersey. Which is a terrible state from what I’ve heard. But I think we can survive a simple hour and a half drive.

...

Zim, signing off.

### **Log Entry #51.**

THAT WAS ONE... HECK OF A TIME. I TEAMED UP WITH THE TEENAGE SUPERHEROES TO STOP SUPERVILLAINS FROM TAKING OVER THE WORLD. AND I'M... getting ahead of myself. When we arrived in Empire City, things looked dire. The intergalactic warlord I've mentioned before in passing, he was here! VILGAX! And he teamed up with the HORRIBLE primate Mojo Jojo. I remember watching the first news report in 2002, him and his ape army. Mojo turned into a giant monstrous ape after his army was destroyed, he lost and was taken into custody.

I would've intervened but the Powerpuff Girls found a way to beat him down. They were only five years old then, so they're considerably stronger now. I plotted to take over Earth at the time and only would have dealt with Mojo Jojo myself because the world wasn't his to conquer. Obviously things changed. I saw Mojo inside his hover pod and I told the others to stand back while I took care of business. Actually, I flew over to the simian using my jetpack and talked to him for a minute. Wow, I really used to talk like that. And STILL DO talk like that occasionally! I know how these villains think, because I used to BE that villain.

"I don't even know where to start! There are just so many possible ways this latest evil scheme can be thwarted. Settle in, monkey boy. Wait, the Powerpuff Girls might defeat you before I even finish counting them! I give it ten... no... five minutes..!!"

By the time Mojo's "sons" the Rowdyruff Boys were defeated, I had really gotten under his skin. Leaving him scatterbrained, and vulnerable. He especially resented the "monkey boy" comment, I knew he would. Vilgax on the other hand? He still scares me, even after he lost to Ben Tennyson and was forced to retreat with his army. I saw some of the battle and I'm astonished by the POWER and SPECTACLE of the Omnitrix. With it's power, an ordinary 16 year old kid can go toe to toe with Vilgax! One of the most dangerous villains in the universe! Ben fought as a Pyranite, Steven knows him as Heatblast.

Speaking of Steven, he really bit off more than he could chew. He was oblivious to the danger of tagging along, deliberately disobeying his father by following me. One of Vilgax's drones was about to kill him before I intervened! Two other stragglers still remained and I destroyed them with my laser gun. The heroes then asked who we were as Ben's Omnitrix alerted him of a new alien sample. Well I straight up told them, Steven is a big fan who's here for the autograph signing! Not only did they sign autographs, we all took selfies together! Those are self-portraits taken with your cell phone. I know the official lingo!

Blossom, commander of the Powerpuff Girls, asked the most questions. "So is GIR a robot or a dog? Both?" Bubbles was too enamored with GIR to care what he was, and just gave him a big old hug. Well I'm happy GIR has a new friend. Buttercup, the toughest fighter, said I had a cool blaster. I'm just glad it hasn't gone unappreciated. Steven was able to take one last selfie with his favorite Omnitrix transformation, Diamondhead, before we headed back to Beach City. These are the sort of memories which last a lifetime, and I'm glad I could help make his birthday special.

...

Zim, signing off.

## **Log Entry #52.**

I keep forgetting to write until a year has already passed, I seriously need to update more regularly! Today was Steven's twelfth birthday, exactly one year since the previous log entry. Not much has changed since then. My "kill count" is above Amethyst's and our missions go well. Mirror-Zim and I will always be fans of the Camp Pining Hearts franchise despite everything. Steven and I go to the big donut nearly every day with GIR and Minimoose. It's the same old, same old. I'm not tired of the repetition, at least not yet.

Today was an important day. The Gems welcomed Steven into his new home! Twelve years old, I still can't wrap my head around the fact that he's twelve years old. GIR was right, they really do grow up so fast! Physically he hasn't grown much at all. I enjoy being the taller one. If he doesn't grow in another two years, then we'll have a big problem on our hands. I haven't faced a serious problem in over a decade! Oh don't get me wrong, I've been in scary situations fighting some of the deadlier monsters. But these days, someone will always have my back. I'll never be alone.

I spent some time inside the Beach House, it's modest-sized and environmentally friendly. Naturally Steven loves it. He probably would've been grateful to live with his heroes no matter the quality of the house. The far side of the interior opens beautifully into the foyer of the Crystal Temple. And just outside of the gate is a Warp Pad.

The Gems made sure they created a happy home environment. Pearl washed Steven's clothes, which are all the same but then again who am I to talk; Garnet and Pearl washed dishes while Amethyst ate part of one. The sandwiches Greg made were good but not THAT good. Only Amethyst, I swear. Greg tried reading a bedtime story to Steven but GIR was making so much noise that no one could hope of sleeping. We created a new plan, Greg would drive around with GIR and I would put Steven to sleep. "I DID IT SEVEN YEARS AGO AND I CAN DO IT AGAIN!" I reasoned.

I was going to read him the story, but then decided to do something a little different. Instead, I was going to tell him a different story. This one actually happened. The true story of how I became a Crystal Gem. In the past I told him that all Irkens were evil, except me. Later when Skoodge arrived on Earth, I made some revisions and updates. Now I've told him everything. I invaded Earth and wanted to do terrible things to his planet, but then started caring about people. I saw how nice the Crystal Gems had been, and what the Tallest were really like. That's how I became the



Irken I am today.

Steven believes in everyone, like his mother. She had written a manifesto years ago which I thought her son should hear. “Fight for all life on the planet Earth. Defend all human beings, even the ones you don’t understand. Believe in love that is out of anyone’s control. And then risk everything for it!” Hearing me repeat the manifesto moved Pearl to tears and Steven was left feeling inspired. I teared up a little and left shortly afterwards. I may as well go to sleep after Greg is done driving GIR around and drops him off. Not because I need to, but because I’ve grown to enjoy it as I’ve gotten older.

...

Zim, signing off.







## Chapter End Notes

This chapter's art is done by the amazing Croxovergoddess!  
The link to her Tumblr: <https://croxovergoddess.tumblr.com/>

# Chapter 14

## Chapter Notes

Back again! The first chapter of the Steven Universe Arc, and hoo boy are there a lot of episodes in this one. It was fun rewatching these early episodes again on DVD, and of course I'm very excited for Steven Universe Future in two weeks. Let me know what you guys think of the latest chapter, comments and kudos are always appreciated!

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

### Log Entry #53.

Today became a very big day for Steven! He started it off by going to the local donut shop, the Big Donut, with GIR and Minimoose. Those two follow him around all the time these days. I even think GIR spends more time with Steven than he does with me! All three were upset to learn that the Cookie Cat ice cream sandwiches had been driven off the market. And by the inferior Lion Licker popsicles at that. Curse those Lion Lickers... curse them!!!

The Crystal Gems heard it was being discontinued and made it our mission to stock up on them for Steven! Don't worry, I threw monies in the face of every employee, so it wasn't stealing. We wanted to surprise Steven. Ironically, we were surprised by a Centipeetle horde before Steven returned home. Most were destroyed, but the Centipeetle Mother still remained. More about that later. Steven found the Cookie Cats in the freezer and delighted in singing the jingle. So did GIR and Minimoose, even I found myself tapping my foot on the beat.

Then, the most INCREDIBLE thing happened. STEVEN'S GEMSTONE BEGAN TO GLOW. IT'S NEVER DONE THAT BEFORE. Eventually, of course, the glow faded. Excitedly, he asked the Gems to teach him how to summon a weapon. Each tried to teach him by using their personal philosophies, unfortunately he was left baffled and confused. Steven even visited me, and I'm not a Gem! I decided to give him a basic explanation of how my PAK works. Steven thinks it's cool that my body is a weapon. Yeah, it is pretty neat. Obviously we aren't going to attach a PAK to his body so the next best thing would've been to recreate what happened.

GIR assured Steven it was bound to work, he "saw it on TV so it MUST be true!!!" Well guess what? It didn't work. He was disappointed nothing happened and we reassured Steven that he's a valued member of the team. And then he took another bite of his Cookie Cat. Not only did his gemstone glow again, but his weapon was finally revealed. It's a shield! A magnificent shield! Under normal circumstances, it would have been a time for celebration.

Unfortunately, just then, the Centipeetle Mother attacked. The Gems and I told Steven to stay in the house but he decided to join the battle anyway. It's a good thing he did. Because if he didn't, the battle may have been lost. I think that after our many victories, we underestimated the danger of such a giant creature. Steven couldn't summon his shield a second time so he instead decided to throw his freezer at the Centipeedle, electrocuting her. We actually owe our victory to Steven!

He's still an overly emotional boy, even burying the Cookie Cat wrappers. Maybe GIR's right, and the power of love is how Steven's gemstone works. What I know for a fact is that Steven's shouldn't have eaten so many Cookie Cats. Now I have to lend him the bucket.

...

Zim, signing off.

#### **Log Entry #54.**

Earth has been threatened by the wrath of the Gem Homeworld! For the first time in thousands of years!!! We were able to destroy their meteor-like device, the Red Eye, before it could potentially collide into Earth and kill countless citizens. But we didn't have success the first time. Or the second. Not even the third. It took us NINE tries.

When Garnet, Pearl and I first saw the Red Eye hurtling towards the Earth, I boldly proclaimed that my laser guns could easily blow it out of the sky. They can easily dispatch Corrupted Gems, but not Homeworld Gem technology. I guess that solves the debate of Irken tech vs Gem tech. Even Garnet's idea was a total failure, though I admit watching her launch Amethyst into the Red Eye was actually pretty funny.

Rose Quartz's laser light cannon is what destroyed the Red Eye, and her son turned the tide for the second time. So did the father, Greg. The Gems doubted that Greg would have the cannon, but I wouldn't. Oh yes, I still held onto hope. It's a good thing I did, because it turns out the weapon had collected dust in Greg's storage unit all along. Greg and Steven drove it to the beach, I asked GIR and Minimoose to join Steven on his quest to find the cannon. I'm sure they were listening to Greg's old album on their way to the beach.

I had grown tired of watching Garnet throw Amethyst at the Red Eye. It was funny the first two or three times, but five? Anyway, activating the cannon proved difficult at first, but then Steven said something about bologna or hot dogs or whatever and that surprisingly activated the cannon. Garnet, Amethyst, Pearl, and Steven lifted the laser light cannon. I yelled "FIRE!!!" and a rose-shaped beam destroyed the Red Eye.

Greg's van was washed towards the ocean in the aftermath. I would've helped Steven and Greg but my LITERAL BURNING HATRED of water prevented me from doing so. I quietly pulled Garnet aside and asked her what the presence of a Red Eye could mean. Well, whatever the future may hold, we won today.

...

Zim, signing off.

### **Log Entry #55.**

Steven took an important test today, which he passed! He just... doesn't know it was a test. And the Gems don't plan on telling him the truth about his mission anytime soon. I try to always be honest with Steven, as I hate lying in any form. You can imagine why. Truth be told, I still feel bad about keeping this a secret from him. Then again, it wasn't something planned, the Crystal Gems just saw an opportunity. To test if he was ready to go on future missions.

Sure the Sea Spire wasn't crucial, and Steven forgot to bring the Moon Goddess statue which would've saved it. But he did some pretty impressive things! For example, we encountered Crystal Shrimp creatures infesting the Spire. While Pearl and I were making convoluted plans to avoid the swarm, Steven pulled bagel sandwiches out of his cheeseburger backpack. He threw them to opposite sides of the room, the shrimp were distracted and a path was cleared.

His ingenuity is very impressive! Early in the mission he pulled out sweaters from his backpack and used them as a rope swing. Pearl told him to never do it again, but agreed that it was a good idea. Minimoose said something about a "bird mom mode." Haha, that is pretty funny! Unfortunately, Steven's luck eventually ran out. He didn't have the statue but GIR had an alternative. Using Minimoose!

It was worth a shot, and for at least a moment, seemed to work. THEN MINIMOOSE EXPLODED. THE SPIRE BEGAN TO CRUMBLE AND EVENTUALLY FLOOD AS I WAS LOSING MY MIND. GIR used his jetpack to fly underneath me so we hovered as the others one by one popped up from underwater. Minimoose survived... SOMEHOW. Steven felt terrible but Minimoose assured him it was no biggie. Oh and the raft! All in all, Steven did pretty well. Now I'm in the mood for a good burger. Where did he get that backpack anyway?

...

Zim, signing off.

## **Log Entry #56.**

The burger was delicious! But I prefer what I had for lunch today. Ordering from Fish Stew Pizza wasn't my plan, I was up for Steven's "Together Breakfast." He was so excited to have breakfast with all of us, and get us to take part in his special tradition!

He had no success gathering the Gems, and gave up after several attempts. At least he could share it with GIR and I. Garnet then warped into the room and declined his offer to have some of the Together Breakfast with us. She had a scroll to burn. A scroll so evil... that even just taking a picture of it with a smartphone requires the phone be burned as well.

Steven was unable to open the temple door with his gemstone, disappointed that it never seems to work when he needs it. Suddenly, the front door opened and "dumb police" Amethyst started yelling that we were dumb. I'M NOT DUMB. AND NEITHER IS STEVEN. Do you know what's ACTUALLY dumb??? SQUIRTING US WITH A WATER GUN. Steven and nearly the cake but MORE IMPORTANTLY MYSELF. I GOT SO MAD!!!! I even instinctively brought out my laser gun. Sometimes she can be too much... Amethyst.

I wasn't the only one mad at Amethyst. Pearl accused Amethyst of taking her sword. Of course Amethyst denied ever taken the sword. Then Pearl mentioned she cleaned her room and rushed back in the Temple. Steven and I followed Pearl through her door and shenanigans quickly ensued. My memory's a little hazy on this. I remember Steven and Pearl falling down a waterfall and Amethyst later chasing Steven through the Temple. She was REALLY hungry for some Together Breakfast, and didn't intend on sharing with anyone.

You wanna know the reason we didn't all end up eating the Together Breakfast? It tried to kill us. No I'm not joking you, it literally tried to kill us all after being possessed by the evil from the scroll. Steven shouldn't have been in the Burning Room, nothing good was ever going to come of it. Pearl and I even warned him to stop earlier and he didn't listen. THAT BEING SAID, he was able to force the mutated Together Breakfast into the lava pool without any help from us. So at least it's a good thing he knows the importance of cleaning up your own mess.

All the Crystal Gems helped Steven make a new Together Breakfast, bigger and better than the previous one! The big problem was that NONE of us had the appetite to eat it as a result of this morning's events. Except GIR. He sickens me sometimes, you know.

...

Zim, signing off.

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## Chapter End Notes

All artwork is done by a friend!

Friend's Ao3 account:

<https://archiveofourown.org/users/EmeraldSeaBug/pseuds/EmeraldSeaBug>

And here's my friend's art blog on Tumblr full of water and honey:

<https://seabeescribbles.tumblr.com/>

# Chapter 15

## Chapter Notes

Man, some of the earlier Steven Universe episodes were weird. Frybo and Cat Fingers in particular are quite disturbing, almost like they're episodes of Invader Zim. And I can't believe Steven Universe Future is almost here! Everything we've heard about it so far leads me to believe that it'll be a fantastic sequel. Let me know what you think with a comment below. And I hope you enjoyed Thanksgiving!! To those who celebrate~

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

### Log Entry #57.

I fear no man. But that thing? Frybo??? It scares me. Frybo always freaked me out, even before it turned into a horrible fast food monster. Steven brought him to life so his friend Peedee Fryman wouldn't have to put on the costume. I had a bad experience with a mascot costume once, so I totally understand. Then again, Frybo wasn't filled with white hot grease. It was only revolting, monstrous, and grotesque. Oh and stupid too!

How was Steven supposed to know Frybo would turn so violent? Wait, hold on a second. I think I remember Pearl warning Steven. Well he must've been distracted by his missing pants! I don't know why they were missing, and I don't think I want to know. I joined in on Pearl's search of the town. According to GIR, the pants came to life when Pearl and I left, and the two of them chased after the renegade pants throughout the house.

You know, I once had a plan to conquer the human race with living, mind-control pants. It would've seemed like yet another horrible 2002 fashion trend. Enough about that, those days are thankfully gone. Seriously though, 2002 was the year fashion on Earth died. Pearl was my greatest enemy in those days. Now I'm happy to call her a friend! Sometimes the Crystal Gems will go on a mission, and everyone will act so immature. She's disappointed in everyone. At least everyone except me...!! When I decorate my bulletin board with Pearl Points, I remember why joining this team was the right choice. They're a new training system of hers and I love them. Amethyst doesn't seem to, though.

I'm ashamed to admit it, but Frybo actually beat us both. Frybo's stream of condiments blinded Pearl and I slipped on a grease spot. At least Frybo didn't force feed us fries like it did those other people. Pearl especially dislikes eating. Before Frybo got the chance, he was attacked by warrior clothes brought to life by the shards Pearl dropped during the battle. GIR had a good plan. Not me, GIR! He dove into Frybo's cheese-filled mouth and ripped out the shard causing the mess!!! GIR had a good meal, Peedee and his dad had a happy ending, and Steven didn't even have to take off



his underwear. Thankfully.

...

Zim, signing off.

### **Log Entry #58.**

I never did like cats. No, not really. I don't even know why I dislike them. Maybe it has something to do with Tak's SIR Unit, MiMi. She disguised herself as a little black cat with glowing red eyes, and that whole situation started with her stalking me one night in February. Since then, cat memes have flooded the internet. I don't even get WHY cat memes are popular, THEY'RE NOT THAT FUNNY. AS A MASTER OF COMEDY, I KNOW WHAT'S FUNNY AND WHAT ISN'T.

And there's nothing FUNNY about what happened today. Yes, Steven's "cat fingers" were cute at first. Adorable, even. Pearl put the idea into Steven's head that he should master the power of shapeshifting. Amethyst explained how. And after attempting to turn into a cat like Amethyst did, he managed to turn one of his fingers into a cat head. The kid ran to show it to his dad. I'm sure he also showed his cat finger to as many people he could find. As long as he doesn't reach my old levels of extreme narcissism, I don't see a problem with that. I think it's a good thing to have confidence in your abilities!

The Crystal Gems were leaving on a mission to fight a LIVING ISLAND when Steven returned to the Crystal Temple and asked for help returning his fingers to normal. The living island is a story for another day, I was on the boat and worried the whole time. And not just because of all that water. All of Steven's fingers were turned into cats! Knowing him, it was probably so that the original finger wouldn't feel lonely. Sometimes I worry he's too innocent for this world.

At least Minimoose and GIR stayed by his side the whole time, I trust that they helped him feel less alone. The Crystal Gems returned the next day after our battle with the island. As cool as that sounds, the battle itself wasn't especially remarkable. I suppose throwing the grenade was fun. Garnet did sick moves. When we did return on the Gem Soop, the cats had been cleared from Steven's body. Garnet's right, Amethyst and Pearl should place more faith in him! I can't say I have a lot of faith that his humor will improve. I'm sorry Steven, but as a master of comedy, I do not approve. He should kill the cat puns like he did the cat fingers.

...

Zim, signing off.

### **Log Entry #59.**

Steven likes a girl!!! That's a far more meaningful and less superficial indicator he's aging. Even if it is still weird that he hasn't grown in the past four years. Ah, well. Took me five years to grow. I'm sure he'll grow taller eventually. I wouldn't have picked up on that if not for my soap operas. I'm enlightened.

Earlier in the day, the Gems were discussing whether the seismic disturbances were earthquakes. We then saw Steven riding a bike. Which is a normal thing to do, but not on the beach. I was about to ask if he had the BRAIN WORMS when Garnet advised the rest of us to take note of the girl reading a book nearby. He was trying to impress her with his bike! Adorable, like one of the earlier Camp Pining Hearts episodes. It's a shame that he stumbled and retreated into the house. All the Crystal Gems were watching him, Pearl was about to set up a play date but Garnet stopped her. We weren't allowed to watch after.

Something about messing up his "funky flow." Steven grabbed the glow bracelet from the freezer and then I remembered where I saw that girl before. The parade last year! I didn't think it was a notable event at the time, it didn't require a log entry. The Boardwalk Parade, Steven was a scrub brush on the car wash float She dropped the bracelet and he kept it in his freezer in case they ever met again. The two had a lot to talk about inside the bubble. He formed a magical crystal bubble to protect her from danger, I bet he looked so heroic. And that wasn't even the end of his heroism.

There was a Worm Monster the two of them had to deal with. Without any help from the Crystal Gems, Steven was able to immobilize the monster, and it was even poofed! Before the Gems and I could arrive on the scene!! Connie's right, Steven was incredible!!! That's the girl's name, by the way. We may have embarrassed him in front of her when we did arrive, but... it doesn't matter. He has a new friend! I wouldn't call her a best friend just yet. Not when Steven has been best friends with GIR for years. Best human friend, definitely. She's thoughtful and courteous so I know her and Pearl will get along.

All this talk about friendship reminds me, I've started to read these log entries out loud and Mirror-Zim is a good audience member! Like a more snarky, cynical version of myself. We bounce off each other well. He still doesn't particularly like the Gems. Except for Steven, who I think he has a soft spot for. I'm content with the fact that my best friend is my mirror self. A lot more fun than it sounds!

...

Zim, signing off.

## **Log Entry #60.**

Just how many times have we been banned from Beach City Funland? I've never kept count. I'm sure it's more than five, maybe even ten. Steven got motion sick, jumped out of the teacup ride and fell on Mr. Smiley, and caused the lever to break. He caused so much mass destruction! I'm sure he's not banned FOREVER, GIR and I have caused more destruction in the past. Sometimes on purpose.

As a result, "Serious Steven" was born. That was two weeks ago. Earlier today, he tried to prove himself worthy of being a Crystal Gem while we navigated our way out of an ancient Gem maze. The Warp Pad first took us to a strawberry field, I haven't been there before. Pearl hadn't been there in thousands of years, when it was a battlefield for Gems. As evidenced by all the sword in the ground. She was explaining the history as Steven worried about a small swarm of butterflies while covered in strawberry jam. Pearl had her second thoughts of having Steven along.

But I didn't! Because I always try to be MOTIVATIONAL! In fact-"motivational" is my middle name! Actually, I don't have a last name. If I ever needed to create a new last name for whatever reason, it would be Irken spelled backwards, like Dracula. Neat, right?

Eventually, we found a large, upside down pyramid temple. Pearl suggested the group split up. First she suggested Steven stay with her, there was a back and forth between her and Amethyst, then I pointed out that Minimoose was created to be Steven's companion so those two may as well be paired up. Finally, Garnet chose to take Steven with her. Pearl went with Amethyst and I traveled with GIR and Minimoose. I've gotta say, even if we ultimately didn't get much accomplished, it was fun going on an adventure with the two of them.

I may have nearly gone insane by the end, arriving back where we started after nearly getting killed by the axes, fire and spikes. We were going to keep going seemingly forever. Thank the stars Steven realized the temple worked like the teacup ride. The temple's tooms, they rotated. Garnet broke through the floor and threw Steven, he removed the gem controlling the temple, and the day was saved thanks to Steven! It's such a shame he couldn't finish his little ukulele song. The swarm of butterflies attacking him WAS pretty funny, though.

...

Zim, signing off.





## Chapter End Notes

All artwork is done by my friends!

Friend's Ao3 account:

<https://archiveofourown.org/users/Cookiemonster2000/pseuds/Cookiemonster2000>

Friend's Invader Zim sideblog: <https://vampirepiggyhunterdefensesquad.tumblr.com/>

And here's my friend's Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/thecookieshoparts/>

## Chapter 16

### Chapter Notes

Steven Universe Future debuts tomorrow! You can already guess how excited I am, lol. This chapter ended up being one of the longest ones so far. I was fueled by Steven Universe Future hype and I recently watched Enter the Florpus for a third time. So I hope you enjoy reading this chapter! And don't forget to leave a comment and kudos if you haven't already!

### Log Entry #61.

I didn't care much for wrestling initially. There weren't enough lasers for my liking. Then Amethyst introduced me to her wrestling alter ego, the Purple Puma. I said it once years ago and I'll say it again: the Purple Puma is TOTALLY SICK. Purple Puma is a heel, which means she's one of wrestling's bad guys. She only needs to be jeered by the audience to be an effective character. And she's typically opposed by the moral and approving faces. My days of being a villain are behind me, but watching Purple Puma taunt the audience and do INCREDIBLY unsportsmanlike things really gets my adrenaline pumping.

And now Steven has discovered how wonderful wrestling is! He joined the underground wrestling league with Amethyst. As Tiger Millionaire, he claimed the Tag Team Belts! Tiger and Puma have WON THE CHAMPIONSHIP! I just wish Steven had told me sooner, we could've made Tiger and Puma merchandise! Why didn't he tell me sooner, anyway? I have a sneaking suspicion Amethyst told him not to say anything. It's because I took Pearl's side over Amethyst's during a recent spat. Well, Amethyst should've known not to punch a blood polyp. Pearl is right, she's absolutely right, Amethyst DOES put us in danger with her little outbursts!

But Amethyst can also be awesome. Perhaps I should stick up for her more. I used to spend a lot more time with Amethyst early on, then I became a sort of confidant to Pearl. As you can imagine, Amethyst wasn't a fan of this change. Neither was Mirror-Zim, for that matter.

Ah, the mirror. When Garnet and Pearl found the flyers, I let slip that I've always known Amethyst uses her powers on humans. That got me thinking. What if one day, Pearl discovers my greatest secret? That I took the mirror from her, and have used it for years? Do they even know the mirror has a personality? I can never tell a soul. Mirror-Zim wants to be with me, not the Gems! Contrary to what Amethyst might think of me now, I'm not just Pearl's stooge.

ANYWAY! Back to the story. Garnet, Pearl and I found Amethyst and Steven in the abandoned

warehouse by Dock 15. Lars and Sadie, the Big Donut employees, were watching the show. I think Steven hurt Lars' feelings or something? Steven was only playing. Heels exist to make the crowd angry! If Tiger Millionaire is a menace, then Steven is doing his job well. Things got too serious too fast, though. So serious that Garnet and Amethyst were locked in a fight. I think Garnet was holding back, but Amethyst was definitely impassioned. Steven interrupted their fight to tell the audience Purple Puma's "backstory." It was effective, and helped Garnet and Pearl understand why Purple Puma needed to exist. It even moved me.

They then only pretended to fight. To please the crowd, "The Notorious Order of Wrestling Haters" was defeated. Garnet, dubbed "Captain Square", apologized to Amethyst. Order had been restored and Purple Puma's heel-face turn is complete. What a strong character arc!

...

Zim, signing off.

## **Log Entry #62.**

In a previous log entry, I stated that I don't particularly like cats. And now Steven has a pet lion. A... magical... pink pet lion. Lions aren't your run of the mill house cats. THEY'RE HUUUGE. HE CAN'T LIVE ON A DIET OF LIZARDS FOR LONG.

Steven found him in the Sahara Desert. The Crystal Gems were on a mission to retrieve a gemstone referred to as the Desert Glass, which had become aimless for some unknown reason. It was creating sand pillars, stairs and walls randomly. We defeated the monster holding the gemstone with ease, and I was annoyed that Amethyst stole my kill! I was so close! The gemstone was embedded with a pillow, which Amethyst claimed as hers. Pearl was worried that Amethyst would drop it on sand. Steven was later the one to accidentally set the gemstone off in sand, because Amethyst failed to contain it immediately.

We didn't know the glass had a lion guardian. One which the Gems and I were acquainted with on our way back to Steven. We quickly took up arms. Steven, GIR, and Minimoose assured us the lion meant us no harm. Steven was forced to say his goodbyes as we returned to the Crystal Temple via warp pad. Lion returned at his doorstep later in the day. I wasn't there for the games myself, but GIR told me that the Lion wasn't interested in playing with them.

GIR caught me up to speed on everything that had transpired since I returned to the barn following our earlier mission. Mirror-Zim and I were debating whether or not water was wet. It was a particularly infuriating conversation anyway. GIR and I rocketed towards the beach, but Steven, Lion, and Minimoose had already retrieved the gemstone using their combined strength by the time we arrived. The threat has been bubbled away and now Steven has a pet Lion. Garnet... indirectly

agreed to it.

I'm still wondering what Steven plans on feeding that thing. Zebra? Antelope? Cat food????? Lots and lots of cat food. That's gonna be one big litter box.

...

Zim, signing off.

### **Log Entry #63.**

The meat... HAS BEEN BEATEN! The Gem cave creature and the remaining drill parasites have been hunted down and defeated!! And I... didn't get to do a lot of work today. I didn't get to do a lot of work on the last mission either. Well I did play a lot of Vampire Piggy Hunter. And I didn't get a game over! I don't stink! Yes I'm chalking that up as a victory. One of my smaller ones.

Steven took us to Funland Arcade to celebrate our victory against the aforementioned Gem creature. He almost fell down from the edge of a cliff but Minimoose is always there to make sure he's safe. The Crystal Gems used to stress over keeping Steven safe. But Minimoose does his job so well that they don't have to worry nearly as much. So we all played the arcade games, earned our tickets, and exchanged them for prizes. Later we fought the drill parasites, nothing else happened, that's all...!!

Except there's more too. While at Funland Arcade, GIR ordered a particularly greasy pizza. He hugged me while covered in GREASE. I dragged GIR to the arcade's bathroom and ordered him to fetch me the cleansing chalk he always carries around for some reason. BUT THERE WAS BACON IN THE SOAP! A grotesque ZIT appeared almost immediately afterwards. GIR's Acne Blast only caused the zit to expand and grow, and to such a monstrous size that he was able to SWIM IN IT. GIR was thoroughly amused by the entire ordeal.

It was so not right! My head was... hideously deformed! GIR even had THE GALL to draw a face on the pimple with a black marker. As I shook him away, however, GIR went into some sort of trance. He obeyed my command to get away! It was the pimple's bobbing. The hideous blemish appeared to have hypnotic powers. Even I fell into a trance watching it bob up and down in the bathroom mirror. I'm the first Irken to discover the power of the pimple. Of course, it needed a name. I dubbed it... Pustulio!



GIR and I stayed in the arcade all night. Garnet was still playing Meat Beat Mania, entranced by it's rhythm. Playing every game in the arcade became boring and stale but then GIR pointed out that if Pustulio worked on humans as well, I could hypnotize them to do some tricks. Nobody got hurt! The performance was fun, I especially liked when I told Lars that he would be a chicken. He started squawking and raising his arms, it was pretty funny! His friend Sadie reached out for a video camcorder and seemed to be enjoying herself. The Big Donut employees are the most viable pairing in Beach City at the moment. And I also turned Ronaldo into a newborn baby. Funny at first, but was disturbing after a while.

The joke was over when Steven ran into the arcade, seperating from Amethyst and Pearl. He caught me up to speed. The parasites had come back and they were a problem. A serious problem. The Crystal Gems needed Garnet and I had a plan to snap Garnet out of her trance. Test out my hypnotic powers on her! They worked on at least nine other people earlier that day, so why wouldn't it work this time? That didn't work. My next plan was to control the citizens of Beach City and use them to force Garnet away from Meat Beat Mania. Steven protested to the idea, he said forcing people's will seemed wrong.

I argued that ends justified the means, but GIR assured us that he could beat Garnet at the game. And I must say, I've never seen GIR frustrated. That business on serious mode doesn't... doesn't count. Steven attempted to unplug the game, but didn't take Garnet's powers into account. Finally Steven just smashed the game's screen in frustration and released the game's hold over Garnet. He attempted to leave the arcade, and was caught by Mr. Smiley. So I used Pustulio to smooth over the problem. I wondered what I would do next with Pustulio. Only then did it finally BURST. All of the people I hypnotized, including Mr Smiley, were pretty peeved. Oh I still cheered the Gems on! Just... while cleaning. I could've joined them if GIR wasn't using merely 1/3 of a sponge.

...

Zim, signing off.

### **Log Entry #64.**

GIANT WOMAN. Amethyst and Pearl fused today to become, in Amethyst's words, an "ultra-powerful, stone-cold betty." I've been a member of the Crystal Gems for eleven years, and they've never done that before. Well, the fusion Opal first formed years before I arrived on Earth. I assume Amethyst and Pearl used to fuse more often because they got along better. Before their leader, Rose Quartz, was dead. And before her son was born. Steven is the reason why they chose to fuse again. I remember it as if it were yesterday... yesterday...

Actually, it was this morning. Pearl and Amethyst were playing checkers, Steven distributed water balloon penalties, and GIR gave the most enthusiastic chess commentary ever. I was only there for

the tail end, as I spent quite a long time in the barn. I was debating Mirror-Zim once again on whether water is wet. Mirror-Zim insists he's right and I'm wrong. What, is he suddenly an expert on how water works? Not important, moving on. Amethyst and Pearl started an argument of their own over why they don't form Opal anymore. An excited Steven asked who Opal was. Pearl and Amethyst had wildly different ways of explaining what fusion is. I think Garnet would have explained fusion the best.

Speaking of which, Garnet returned from a mission right around that time. She had located the Geode Beetles of Heaven and Earth, two corrupted Gems kept apart from each other for thousands of years. They weren't causing trouble or anything, we just needed to retrieve them. Simple enough. What proved difficult was Amethyst and Pearl's pointless bickering. I used to bicker with the Crystal Gems a lot, but that was when I schemed to destroy them. So Pearl and Amethyst have no excuse! And why not simply split up? Because one was at the bottom of a boiling lava lake, and only Garnet can swim in a lava lake. Oh, and Minimoose can as well. He tagged along with Garnet, his first time away from Steven.

The rest of us warped away to the Sky Spire. Garnet assured we would be safe there. And though she was gravely mistaken, she was right about Steven and I keeping the harmony. That's right. ZIM... keeping the harmony. It feels so strange to type that.

Steven is a better person than all of us, but can be occasionally annoying. At the Sky Spire, Steven kept pestering Pearl and Amethyst with trivial questions about how Opal works. GIR had some questions of his own. And his were much more nonsensical. On a side note, I NEVER want him to mention biscuits ever AGAIN. I found myself feeling more frustrated and annoyed than usual. Steven's barrage of questions, GIR's ridiculousness, Pearl and Amethyst's petty squabbling. I had just about enough. Suddenly, Steven started to sing.

He tried to convince Amethyst and Pearl to fuse into Opal through song. And you know what? His little song was so quaint, that I was put in a much better mood! It didn't convince the two Gems to fuse, though. They eventually did. It only required that Steven be EATEN BY BIG BIRD. A Corrupted Gem taking the form of a massive bird-like creature. Only then did Amethyst and Pearl decide the situation was dire enough to fuse. I had one of my greatest freak-outs. UNDERSTANDABLY SO, I WATCHED STEVEN GET EATEN ALIVE. IF OPAL HADN'T REACHED INTO THE GEM'S STOMACH AND SAVED HIM, I WOULD'VE HAD A HEART ATTACK. AT LEAST ONE OF THEM WOULD DEFINITELY HAVE BEEN ATTACKED.

Opal unfused not too long after forming, so I couldn't get a sense of her personality. But she was definitely powerful, able to take down the Corrupted Gem in one shot. Steven was even more astonished by her than I was. This is his first time seeing a fusion. As far as he knows, anyway. When we warped back to the temple, he was the one who gave the Beetle back to Garnet, and not Opal. Garnet was absolutely right when she said Steven will be great at fusing one day. AND YES, HE CAN FUSE WITH THE OTHERS AS WELL. THAT'S SO AMAZING! I THINK! MAN! I... really hope Garnet is right. It would be sad if he couldn't...

...

Zim, signing off.

# Chapter 17

## Chapter Notes

Happy Friday the 13! Also, wasn't Steven Universe so good???? Also also, my good friend Sea, the series artist, has her own SU crossover comic! You can find it on [spinel-swell.tumblr.com](http://spinel-swell.tumblr.com)! Thank you for your kudos and comments! I love them so much! And all that's out of the way, here's the chapter now!

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

### Log Entry #65.

Days on Earth are filled with adventure and excitement. Maybe some are a little dull, boring and bland. But today was different. Something happened. Something out of my control, and I felt powerless. Which is a feeling I haven't felt in a long time.

It began simply enough. The Crystal Gems decided to search for a smell which had contaminated the Temple. My lack of a nose didn't keep me safe, Irkens "smell" through our antenna. It was a smelly smell. And the source of the smelly smell was a tuna burrito. Amethyst saved it from Aqua Mexican before it closed. Nothing Amethyst does can surprise me anymore, but I was still disgusted when Amethyst eagerly took a bite out of the five year old burrito. She got food poisoning shortly after, yet I know for a fact she didn't learn any lesson from the experience.

Steven then found a painting of the Gems and Rose Quartz dressed like old timey people. He learned for the first time that Gems are thousands of years old, which is good, because I was beginning to wonder when they would tell him. There's a lot of things he doesn't know about them, and probably things I still don't know. As soon as he wondered aloud how they could find a cake large enough for all the candles, I just knew that there would be a whole big thing. Of course Garnet had to say that they don't celebrate birthdays. Naturally, Steven then decided to make up for the thousands of birthdays they missed. He said "well I celebrate Zim's birthday every year! And I pledge that you will have your birthdays, with all the candy, cake, and ice cream you've been denied."

During Amethyst's party, which spiraled into violence as I knew it would, Pearl pulled me aside and asked if this was true. If I celebrated birthdays with Steven. Truthfully, I don't even remember the exact date I got my PAK attached. I just selected a random date and decided that it would be my birthday from that point on. GIR and Minimoose bring me birthday presents, I go to Funland with Steven and Greg, and a banquet is held in my honor. THAT'S RIGHT, A BANQUET IN MY HONOR! I never would've gotten ANYTHING like that back on Irk. What a crummy place.

Unfortunately, Pearl didn't like the idea of a birthday party. Not at all. Especially not Steven's jokes, which still aren't funny. Not even a little. And to make matters worse, he dressed up like one of THEM. I don't know if I've ever brought this up before, but I HATE CLOWNS. I HATE THEM SO MUCH. WHO UNIRONICALLY ACTUALLY LIKES CLOWNS? NO ONE, BECAUSE THEY'RE THE WORST! Okay, rant over. Back to what I was saying before. So Steven threw a party for Garnet last and she finally had to tell him that the Gems are just "too big" for parties. He left distraught, so I asked GIR and Minimoose to keep an eye on him while I helped the Gems clean up supplies.

When he returned... well... when Lion dropped him in front of us... we were horrified. He had become so old! And decrepit! On death's door. Pearl later explained that his gem had reacted to his state of mind. The Gems were arguing in despair with one another. I had to stay strong. I had to get GIR and Minimoose through..!! And I don't know how long I would've hidden my despair. If Steven hadn't returned to his normal age... WELL I DON'T EVEN WANNA THINK ABOUT IT. We managed to make him feel like himself again and I rushed with the Gems to give him a hug. Now we need to work on the rest. Steven still has adult legs! I know I said he had a growth lull, but this is just plain ridiculous!

...

Zim signing off.

### **Log Entry #66.**

Another standard mission today, nothing too out of the ordinary happened. We were on a mission to isolate a clinging moss from the Beach City Citizens, or "townies" as GIR refers to them. The particular moss was dangerous and fast growing, capable of devouring any living thing that crosses its path. Sort of like the Infinite Energy I created many years ago. Except the moss is a different kind of monster, one which has no frightening outward appearance. I suppose that makes the moss more of a threat to humans! They wouldn't know to run away. That's why the Crystal Gems needed to section off the area with police tape before we could figure out how to transport the moss away.

Steven broke for lunch shortly after. It's a good thing he did, because I've been having some negative thoughts. Irken lifespans are ten times that of a human's. Someday, many years from now, I may see Steven wither away like he did three days ago. His near death due to accelerated gem aging must've been a terrible ordeal. Yet he still hasn't talked to any of us about it since it happened! I hope this doesn't become a trend.

I don't know what else to write. Like I said, nothing too out of the ordinary happened today. Oh wait! I forgot what Minimoose told me. He went with Steven, who apparently hung out with Lars

and the cool kids in town. There were teenage shenanigans and magical trouble, but everyone made it out okay. If they hadn't, I would be freaking out way more than I was earlier. It turns out that the moss was just trying to bloom! That makes sense. It was planted by Rose Quartz, who sounds like an amazing person. I'm glad she and Pearl got to spend such time together. I should report back to the Gems, they'll be happy to know that the moss won't be a problem for any townies.

...

Zim, signing off.

### **Log Entry #67.**

IT HAPPENED AGAIN. I STOOD HELPLESS AND WATCHED AS PEARL WAS POOFED. It wasn't my fault this time. Even so, a lot of horrible memories came flooding back to me. I'm getting ahead of myself aren't I? I have a tendency to do that. Let me start from the beginning.

GIR and I were invited to watch a film. Watching it hurt my head. For some reason Steven thought it'd be a good idea to watch the fourth movie in a series with no context! And the film wasn't even in basic, so I had to read the captions displayed at the bottom of the screen. The performances were good, although the plot was hoaky. It's unfortunate that the cover art spoiled the movie's crazy twist. I rate my viewing experience a 7/10.

Pearl is less forgiving than I am. She criticized the film for being nothing like real sword fighting. Which is true. But like Steven said, it was only a movie! Pearl then offered to show Steven a demonstration of proper sword fighting techniques when he was ready. Steven excitedly accepted.

Pearl then took us all to the cloud temple where she trained me! So many memories there! Pearl said she was in need of a sparring partner and projected a Holo-Pearl. I was content to watch and cheer on for Pearl. At least until Amethyst suggested that Pearl and I have another battle. "At least that would be a little more interesting," she mused. She was right! She was absolutely right! We hadn't sparred in a great many years, and lately I'd felt rusty. Not as good at fighting as I used to be.

The duel was magnificent. In the heat of battle, words are swept away and give way to actions. Moments of pure expression! Yes I lost the duel, but that didn't really matter to me. She skillfully parried all my attacks, but I was able to disarm her at one point! Steven was right, we were both awesome!

What came next, however, put us both in shock. Holo-Pearl was still operational and standing by, so when Pearl began to lecture Steven, it detected an opening and THRUSTED HER SWORD INTO PEARL'S BACK. Steven teared up and Pearl chuckled nervously, telling him that everything was going to be fine. I knew what was about to happen next. She poofed into a white cloud, and I rushed to his side. I told him that this sort of thing has happened before. Of course, I didn't tell him HOW it happened. He doesn't need to know that. Garnet explained to him how regeneration works. Maybe Steven won't be forced to wait two weeks like I did. Maybe I won't lose my mind!

...

Zim, signing off.

### **Log Entry #68.**

HI, ZIM HERE. I DID LOSE MY MIND BUT I'M BETTER NOW. AT LEAST I THINK AM??? PEARL'S BACK... AGAIN. I AM!!!! VERY SHOUTY AND DRAMATIC!!! I... need to calm down. Wowie.

It ended up taking two weeks for Pearl to regenerate, as I feared. I still went on missions with the other Gems, but we all missed Pearl. Like how I had to stay strong for GIR and Minimoose when Steven rapidly aged, I had to stay strong for Steven as we waited for Pearl to return. He blamed himself for what happened to HER. And later tried to fill the void with her holographic clone. Which got creepy. When the alien bug is creeped out, that's when you know things must be REALLY BAD.

The holographic clone may have looked like Pearl, but it acted nothing like her. Amethyst was right, THAT STUPID THING JUST WASN'T PEARL. Even after it showed no visible emotion at the boardwalk, Steven and I thought that maybe it would recognize the cherry blossom tree as something Pearl loved. Any hopes of it acting even just a little like the template were dashed when the hologram cut the tree down with a stupid balloon sword from the boardwalk.

Steven and I headed back to the beach house before it started raining again. We both grew to hate the Holo-Pearl and we left it outside in the rain. Maybe watching the fifth Lonely Blade would take our minds off- HOLO-PEARL ATTACKED US! Oh, well, it attacked the television first. Which was a personal attack. Steven hated Holo-Pearl as much as I did, only he wanted it gone. I on the other hand, wanted it DESTROYED.

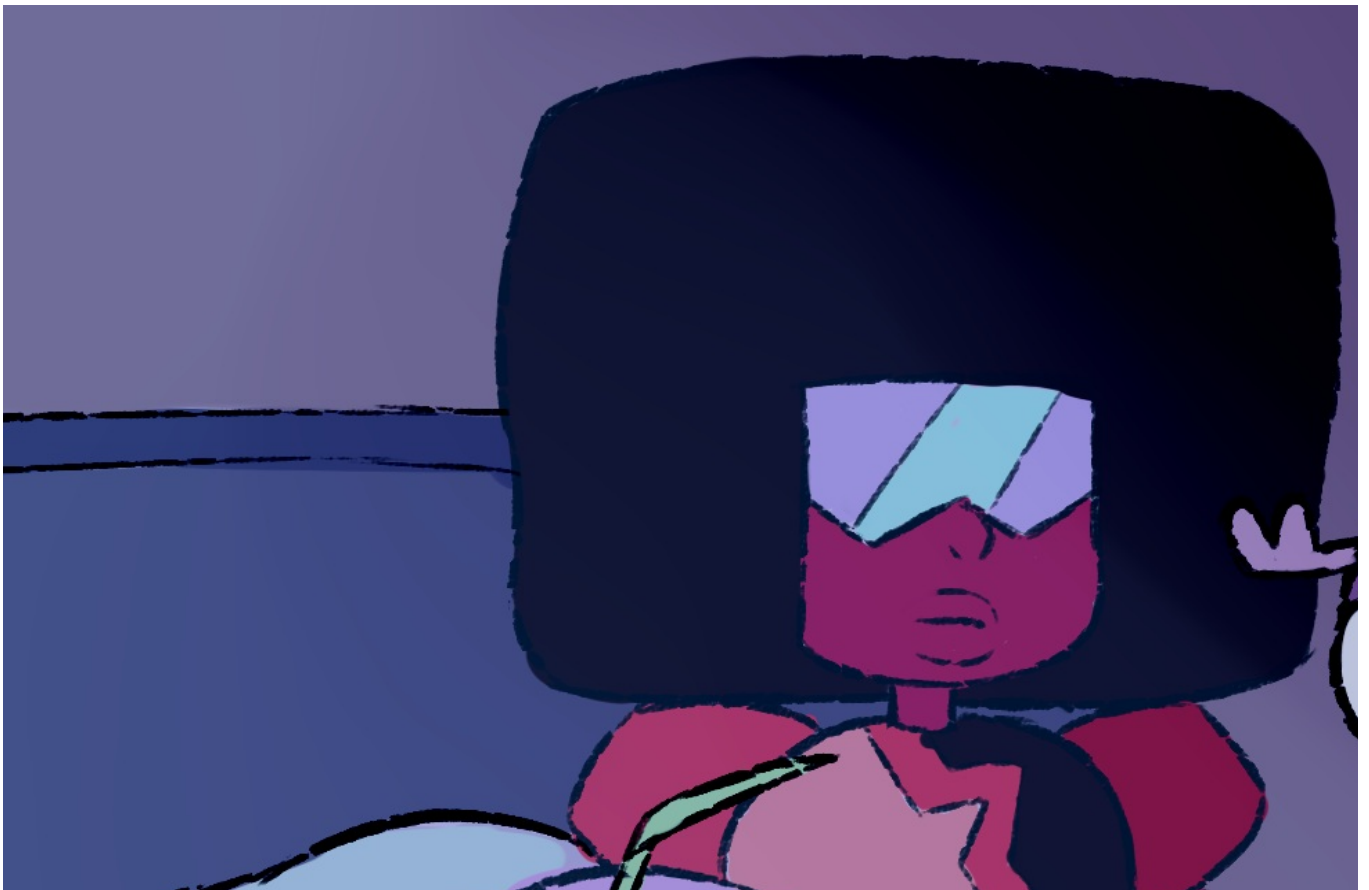
Holo-Pearl was an affront to the original Pearl. Steven said it perfectly. The original Pearl is smart and always wants to protect her friends from danger. All the holo clone wanted to do was fight! Steven accidentally activated its "advanced" mode and that's when we realized. Holo-Pearl didn't simply fail to protect Steven from danger... now it WAS the danger! I protected Steven from Holo-Pearl's barrage of attacks, using all my training to destroy it permanently. Steven cheered me on as I did it. Holo-Pearl knew all of the original's techniques, but it didn't know a thing about me. A blast from my laser gun did the job.

Garnet and Amethyst entered from outside, they heard fighting and were ready to defend Steven. Just then, Pearl regenerated! With a different look from before. Her older form started to make me feel uncomfortable after a certain point. A constant reminder of my "cringe phase" as Amethyst likes to call it. All my repressed feelings and memories were brought into consciousness, and the experience was a lot more cathartic than I thought it would be. Nice! I'm going to help Pearl clean Steven's room now. I don't want her to face the mess left from what recently happened. I may as well sanitize the beach house while I'm at it. And when Pearl and I are done, Steven can inhale the scent of a germ-free home! At least until GIR inevitably lets loose a germ army.

...

Zim, signing off.

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## Chapter End Notes

All artwork is done by a friend!

Friend's Ao3 account:

<https://archiveofourown.org/users/EmeraldSeaBug/pseuds/EmeraldSeaBug>

And here's my friend's art blog on Tumblr full of water and honey:

<https://seabeescribbles.tumblr.com/>

# Chapter 18

## Chapter Notes

I hope you had a happy holidays! I know I did. Spending time with family is always great, and I started playing Pokémon again, lol. Steven Universe Future has also been great! And I enjoy posting more chapters! Be sure to leave a comment or a kudos if you haven't already. And have a good Friday, guys!

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

### Log Entry #69.

Another day, another monster to slay. The Ant Gem Monster looked cool, sure, but was defeated rather easily. That's a crying shame. Ants are formidable predators! I even thought about buying an ant farm in the past. And I've been looking for a real challenge ever since my duel with Pearl a few weeks ago. That holographic clone knew none of the real Pearl's tricks. It was just one step above the mindless monster I blasted today with my laser gun.

When the Gems and I beamed in on the Warp Pad, we saw Steven's friend with him and posed in an attempt to impress her; Pearl feigned surprise at seeing Connie but I felt she was unconvincing. The two of them were on their way to see a movie named Dogcopter 3 starring Dogcopter, a flight capable robot dog that shoots missiles from its rear end. I found it amusing that GIR was excited watching the trailer. He himself is a robot dog and can do all those things! Okay so he doesn't shoot the missiles out there. But he can do so much more!

Why would Steven ever want to watch a movie about a robot dog??? When his BESTEST FRIEND is a robot dog THAT CAN TALK??? Perhaps it's watching a movie with Connie that excites him, not the movie itself. What's their ship name, Stevonnie? Such a healthy ship, I love it!

I wish I would've gone to the movies with them. And not because I was interested in watching Dogcopter 3. You know the phrase, it's about the journey not the destination? Yes, exactly that. Minimoose reports that Lion can walk on water, took Steven on a magical ride, and created a portal by roaring! The kids arrived in an empty training temple, where they found a collection of weapons and armor. Steven then unwittingly activated what I assume was a training robot that shot at him and Connie! Lion helped them escape the temple and Minimoose provided support.

Eventually the robot came back, more powerful than before. I initially assumed Minimoose was going to tell me that he saved the kids and destroyed the training bot. Or maybe even Lion. But no, the kids saved themselves! Lion summoned a sword from HIS HEAD, AND CONNIE USED

TENNIS SERVES TO REFLECT THE ROBOT'S SHOTS. VICTORY FOR STEVEN! AND CONNIE! STEVONNIE! OR CONNVERSE. Oh and Minimoose thought that Dogcopter 3 was pretty okay.

...

Zim, signing out.

### **Log Entry #70.**

I'm happy to say the Giant Pufferfish Monster was a greater opponent than last week's! We first clashed with the Corrupted Gem on the beach. It had the power to blow away Pearl's spear and even Garnet herself with just it's powerful breath. I thought about throwing a deadly explosive weapon in it's mouth, but Amethyst knocked the beast far out to sea by shapeshifting into a giant baseball bat. Normally I would be upset that a kill was stolen from me, but her form amused me and I knew the fight was only delayed anyway.

Garnet had smashed into the Fish Stew Pizza Restaurant, which understandably upset the owner. Garnet, Amethyst, Pearl and I regrouped back at the Temple as an irate Kofi questioned Steven. Apparently he banned us from his store? None of us really cared except for Steven, who decided to throw a small party on the beach in hopes of patching things up with the Pizzas.

We all sat down to eat and tensions started to boil. The Gems don't need to eat, for one thing. Steven intervened by asking if we would like to play volleyball. Steven picked the teams, and GIR and I served as announcers. At a certain point, each team resorted to using cheap tactics which resulted in them arguing how each was "cheating" at the game. Later, GIR and I left our commentary positions go and get the ball. As we ran after the ball, it began to blow backwards, and the Pufferfish returned!

GIR and I slipped back into our commentator personas as the Gems and Pizzas made a joint effort to defeat her. I'm glad that Garnet was the one to get the final blow, after being sent flying earlier before. The Crystal Gems did such a good job that Kofi officially unbanned the Crystal Gems from his store! I have a feeling GIR would've cried if he learned that I got him banned from Kofi's Pizza for life.

...

Zim, signing off.

### **Log Entry #71.**

I chose not to go on a mission with the Gems. So that I could spend time with Steven. He ate seven whole cans of cream corn due to there being a five-dollar coupon for mini golf. Unfortunately, the Gems had to leave on a mission. GIR and I played Golf Quest Mini with him to pass the time. Steven played as Ace, GIR played as Lina, and I played as Wedge. I had fun defeating enemies like the Windmill and Professor Sandtraps, the three of us even unlocked a secret ending!

If only we could finish watching it! Garnet, Amethyst, and Pearl returned as we attempted to watch the video, then Amethyst pressed a button on the ancient device they found which produced a HORRIBLE SOUND WAVE. STEVEN'S TV BROKE. I PAID FOR THAT WITH MY BABYSITTING MONEY. Pearl and Amethyst began yelling at each other, as they seem to every thirteen minutes. I was about to get a migraine but then Steven finally vented his frustration. Of not being able to control anything in his life. I've never, in all my life, seen Steven give vent to his anger. It's just not his nature!

Steven wished for a place just for himself, and much to our surprise, his gemstone activated the door to his mother's room. The Gems warned him not to go inside, but he ran in demanding some alone-time. Everyone except for Minimoose was locked out. That makes sense, the tiny purple moose has tagged along everywhere Steven goes for the past six years. Steven had been frustrated with the Gems, and so was I. That Wailing Stone they found looks ridiculous.

Steven described his mother's old room as a magical place, all pink and fluffy and full of clouds, and he made a cute tiny pink whale appear. Like a whale version of Minimoose, it talked to him, and the room gave him whatever he asked for! Things were going great until the room built Beach City and trapped him inside. With weird versions of everyone... thank the stars he's okay. We did end up playing mini golf. And while I prefer the video game, I just like spending time with everyone. It gets lonely in the barn sometimes.

...

Zim, signing off.

## Log Entry #72.

Twelve years and I never see a giant woman. Now I've seen two in the span of six months! And this was a giant, *giant* woman. Sugilite, the fusion of Garnet and Amethyst. Sugilite is a very big fusion with immense power and a very short fuse. Very bad combination.

We were just supposed to destroy a malfunctioning antenna. It seemed like a simple enough mission, Pearl had a well thought out plan ready, but was cut off by Garnet. "We don't need a plan. What we need is Sugilite." I was conflicted. On the one hand I respect Pearl, while on the other hand, I wanted to see Sugilite in action. A fusion of two Crystal Gems couldn't possibly be bad! Well guess what. It was bad. horribly, horribly bad. Sugilite had no good traits, only their worst ones. I don't know what I hated more, seeing Steven hit by falling debris or being called... little. I haven't been called little in years. I HATE IT WHEN PEOPLE CALL ME THAT. I KNOW I'M LITTLE, DON'T RUB IT IN.

We warped away and left Sugilite to finish the demolition alone. Steven then came up with the idea to exercise as a group, obsessed with becoming stronger after witnessing the power of Sugilite. He enlisted Greg to build a makeshift gym on the beach. While he was building the equipment, I talked to Pearl. I sensed her hidden envy, as I harbored it for years towards Irkens who made me feel like I was nothing. Steven met us inside before I could start a deeper conversation, and explained to Pearl what he was doing. He wanted to be "strong in the *real* way" like Sugilite. There's a more well-rounded strength than hers, one that's both mental and physical. Sugilite's strength isn't real. Garnet and Amethyst have strength that their fusion will never know. It's incredible.

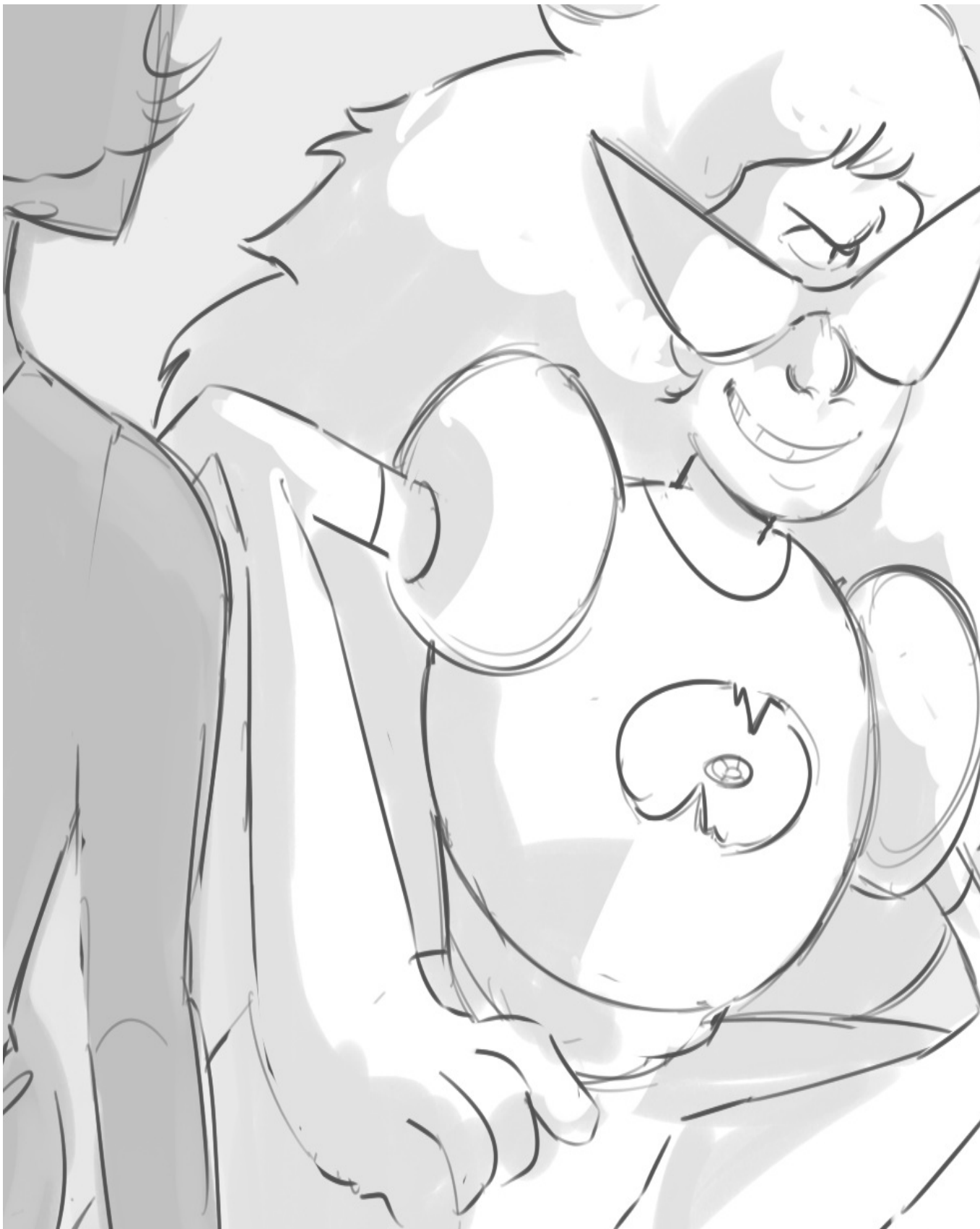
You know what ELSE is incredible??? Pearl's singing voice!!! I don't think I've ever heard her express her deeper emotions through song, she should do it a lot more often! And that inspired Steven to sing a second verse, starting the workout with Greg, Sadie and Lars. Even I got in on the action! So did GIR and Minimoose. It was amazing! I felt incredible, like I could take on the world! But because I protect the world from devastation, I instead decided to find Sugilite and give her a piece of my mind.

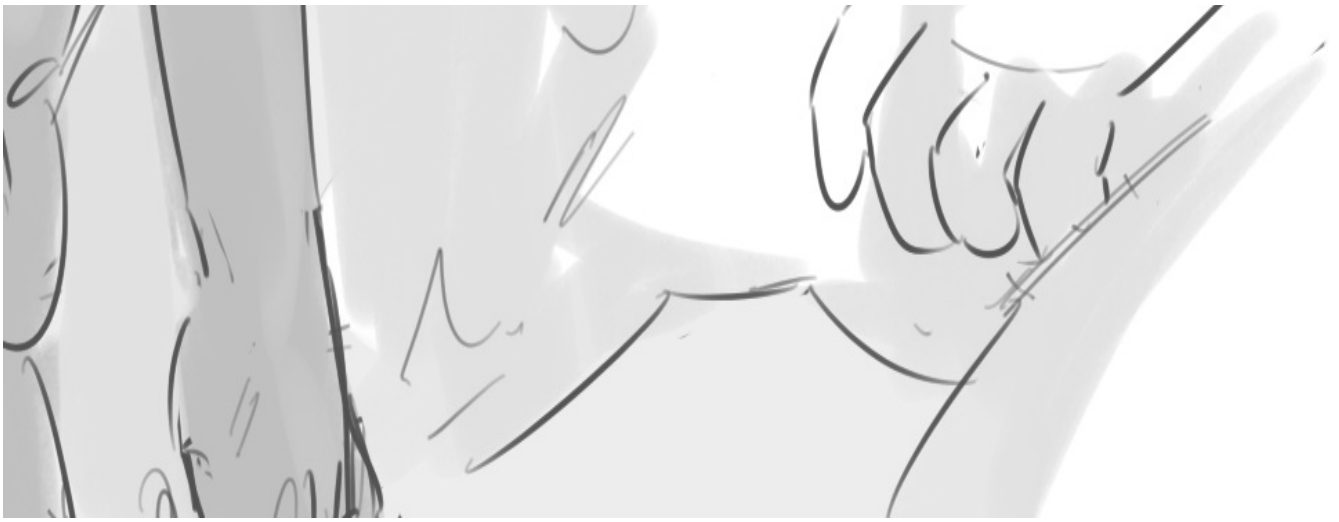
The Warp Pad was down, so instead, I took off on GIR's jetpack. We eventually found Sugilite angrily wading through the ocean. I really let her have it, to which Sugilite replied by catching us in her hand like flies. When Sugilite reached the beach, she threw us at Pearl like we were nothing. The pain was terrible, so I was content with standing on the sidelines when the fight between Pearl and Sugilite ensued. Despite Sugilite's superior size and speed, Pearl was able to outsmart the fusion, and separate her! The nightmare has ended!

As Garnet and Amethyst apologized for what they had done as Sugilite, Pearl enthusiastically hugged both. I'm content knowing that they're in as much pain as I am. Is that awfully petty of me? Perhaps, but I think I've earned the right to be petty in this situation.

...

Zim, signing off.





## Chapter End Notes

All artwork is done by my friends!

Friend's Ao3 account:

<https://archiveofourown.org/users/Cookiemonster2000/pseuds/Cookiemonster2000>

Friend's Invader Zim sideblog: <https://vampirepiggyhunterdefensesquad.tumblr.com/>

And here's my friend's Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/thecookieshoparts/>

# Chapter 19

## Chapter Notes

Sorry for not posting last Friday! I was way too busy, lol. I hope you enjoy this chapter, it sets up a lot of plot points while also having comedy and even speculation about Zim's past!

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

### Log Entry #73.

The Crystal Gems were on a mission to look for the Glass of Time. As the name implies, it enables its user to travel through time. You know, one of my many plans to conquer Earth was to build a space/time object replacement device. Back then I didn't have the tools necessary to perform the job. But I probably do now. And looking back? I realize that altering the timeline is more foolish than productive! Anybody who would do that is a complete moron! Wait, does that make Steven the perfect moron?

A shmillion Stevens teleported to the Seashrine, fighting for the hourglass! And seeing as how Minimoose tags along everywhere, there were a shmillion Minimoose! Yes, the usual plural of moose is moose. Amethyst added an S to moose, but I corrected her before Pearl did.

I watched on as all the Stevens and Minimoose from different timelines fought each other for the hourglass, GIR was busy counting them all. Suddenly, one of the Pompadour Stevens shouted to all the other Stevens to stop. He destroyed the hourglass to bring things back to where they were, destroying every single copy. It disturbed me to see Steven die, even if it wasn't my Steven. Yes, that's the word I would use to describe this experience. Disturbing. Most disturbing.

Steven bounced back faster than I did. He's even going to do a song about it during Beach-a-Palooza later today! I'll attend and listen, as soon as I finish drying off with this towel.

I'm drying off because Amethyst picked up the wrong hourglass, which caused water to rush in and flood the Sea Shrine. I did my best to dodge the water, but then GIR ran away to pick up the other hourglasses. A huge wave formed behind him. I started to panic and Garnet stretched her arms forward, grabbing Steven with her left and GIR with her right. The huge wave engulfed us before we could warp out of there. Steven and GIR were washed away, the Gems had sea creatures clinging onto them, and I got burned. Sometimes I wish the Earth's water was GONE IN A FLASH! Wouldn't that be cool?



...

Zim, signing off.

### **Log Entry #74.**

Steven made another friend today. Except instead of a human girl, it's a monster he accidentally released from a gem bubble and attempted to tame. A monster buddy. And not just any monster - a monster Steven helped defeat months ago. YES HER. THE CENTIPEETLE MOTHER.

Steven was alone in the Temple following a battle against the Ice Monster in a snowy mountain. Garnet slammed the Ice Monster into a wall, which caused the ice ceiling to cave in. Garnet bubbled Steven and warped him back to the Temple as rocks flew. Of course we survived. We always survive! However, we came back to see the Centipeetle out. I was about to shoot the monster but Steven told us that it didn't harm him at all and that he would attempt to train its wild, violent instincts.

I put down the laser gun. Pearl objected but Garnet understood what I thought. Centipeetle was a horrible monster turned tiny green gremlin. That's similar enough to me that I showed her mercy, like the Crystal Gems showed me mercy all those years ago. Steven then began the training.

I was explaining my reasoning to Pearl when Steven eagerly ran up to the house, wanting to show us Centi's new "trick." Every time Steven squawked like a seagull, Centi spit a stream of acid. One stream almost hit GIR! He laughed. I swear, that robot has no survival or self-preservation instincts.

Centi later helped us on a mission. Or more accurately, phase two. We may have defeated the Ice Monster, but failed to retrieve the Shooting Star from a shallow well found deep within the Ice Cavern. Technically that means the first plan was a failure. The second was a success, even with the complications. I think Centi got frightened and that caused her to spew acid all over. The Gems knocked Centi to the wall as Steven and Minimoose tried to convince them to stop. He eventually did, but... Centi isn't with us anymore.

A large stalactite loosened from the ceiling during the battle and fell straight for Steven! He was hugging Centi and she pushed him out of the way, sacrificing herself to save Steven. On a brighter note, we learned he can bubble things! Like Pearl said, I think one day he'll help people in ways even his mother couldn't.

...

Zim, signing off.

### **Log Entry #75.**

WELL WHADDYA KNOW, STEVEN CAN HELP PEOPLE IN WAYS HIS MOTHER COULDN'T. HE HAS HEALING SPIT! WHICH IS AN AWESOME AND DISGUSTING REVELATION ALL AT THE SAME TIME. But I'm getting ahead of myself again, why must I always do that???

I attended a picnic today. It was a beautiful day for one. There was just one small snag—Steven was in the worst mood I've ever seen him in. Connie asked about the fence, and he told her the long story. It wasn't a happy one, either. Amethyst nearly died the day before...

She was playing around on the edge of a cliff despite Steven's protests. I've stood on the cliff before, plenty of my favorite characters look cool standing on the edge of a cliff. You know what isn't cool? Joking around on the edge of a cliff. And of course GIR joined her. There's this idiom, "if everyone jumped off a bridge, would you?" GIR's response would probably be: "Probably! You're all smart, so the bridge is probably on fire!" An idiom wasted on an idiot.

But you know what? He's my idiot. So when they fell off and landed on a rock, Steven and I ran down the cliff at breakneck speed. Both were in a bad way. Amethyst's gemstone cracked and GIR seems to have reset. The files can be recovered, but he's going to be switched off for a while. I began repairs on GIR as Steven went to Rose's fountain, in hopes of healing Amethyst's gemstone.

She was eventually restored to her normal self, thank the stars, but Steven mistakenly made the assumption that his tears were what restored the fountain. When in reality, Pearl and Garnet simply unplugged a clog.

What gets me is that Steven didn't cry easily. And when he did, it was about his own insecurities. How he never got to experience a relationship with his mother like the other Gems did. I'm the only Crystal Gem who never had any experiences with her. His healing spit is sort of like a metaphor. They have things in common, but he's his own person. And Connie can see without her glasses after drinking out of Steven's juice box! SWEET VICTORY! Well, the juice box was mostly backwash, so maybe not quite sweet. A victory nonetheless!

...

Zim, signing off.

### **Log Entry #76.**

GIR still isn't on! And it's been two weeks! TWO WEEKS! WHY IS IT ALWAYS TWO WEEKS??? I don't want to be left alone with my thoughts for too long. I'm bored to tears. I'm bored to death. I'm in a sort of half dead state.

But I've held together through worse times. And Mirror-Zim is good company. I'M the person that I spend the most time around and whose thoughts and feelings have the biggest effect on me. How you talk to yourself is incredibly impactful.

Finding the mirror was like finding a puzzle piece that made me whole. There are things we can talk about that no one else would understand. Not even GIR.

Sometimes I wake up in the middle of the night, where I feel as if someone is around my neck, choking me. These night terrors have gotten worse with time. I actually feel like I'm about to die. I see terrible things, like I'm in another dimension. I can't even wake up properly from it.

I think about my special place. A tiny galaxy, full of tiny solar systems and tiny planets! I often went there with Skoodge and Tenn, but sometimes I wanted to be alone and...

Then I remember crushing the tiny planets. I can't stop thinking about the terrible things I've done in the past, how I played big so I could stop feeling small, and how I hurt people. I was terrible. I tell myself that I've changed. Earth changed me. But... that makes everything feel much worse. My mind works against me. It wants me to suffer. Like the people on those tiny planets suffered.

Well this log entry got dark.

...

Zim, signing off.

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## Chapter End Notes

All artwork is done by my friends!

Friend's Ao3 account:

<https://archiveofourown.org/users/Cookiemonster2000/pseuds/Cookiemonster2000>

Friend's Invader Zim sideblog: <https://vampirepiggyhunterdefensesquad.tumblr.com/>

And here's my friend's Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/thecookieshoparts/>

## Chapter 20

### Chapter Notes

Crap, I haven't uploaded a new chapter since January. I'm really sorry this took so long! The past few months have been pretty insane. I still want to finish this story, I'm never going to abandon it, and the chapters will be uploaded weekly again. This chapter is a pretty dang big one. I want to thank everyone for continuing to follow this story, especially the folks to leave reviews! Tysm!

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

### Log Entry #77.

GIR activated today. I woke up and found him standing beside me, staring. I had my GIR back! Or at least I thought I did. I then rubbed my tired eyes, which revealed a menacing aura: red glowing eyes staring back at me.

HE TRIED TO KILL ME! I DON'T KNOW HOW, BUT HE WAS FULLY EVIL AGAIN. I gasped loudly and used my spider legs to hop into the air. Too many thoughts were going through my brain, and I couldn't get away. GIR used his jet pack to fly and used his metal robot arm to knock to the ground. He then swung at me, but he missed, and I was able to kick him.

It had hurt so much to get back up, I know I wouldn't have been able to stand if it weren't for my spider legs. I used them to spring away and narrowly avoid fist after fist. Not only did he hurt my body, but he also hurt my pride, being forced to scamper away like a rat. The first time he turned against me, I alone was at fault. I turned him into that monster. This time was different. This time he simply went MAD.

And he began to say such terrible things. "You were a terrible Invader! You are a terrible Crystal Gem! No... you are not a Crystal Gem... you are a coward! You run from your past like you run from me!" I stopped dead in my tracks when I heard that, turned around and said "FOOL, I AM YOUR MASTER, ZIM! AND ZIM IS NOT A COWARD!"

It's a good thing he retained some of his original childish actions. Because he was entirely emotional and angry, and he ran screaming toward me. I had to put an end to the madness. I had to shoot him with my laser gun. Oh he's not dead, I set for stun. Even after the fighting is over, I still feel like I lost. What if GIR is never the same again? What if I can't fix him this time? I don't want to go to sleep. I can't let the voices in my head win again, I just can't. So I'll talk to Mirror-Zim all night! Genius idea.

...

Zim, signing off.

### **Log Entry #78.**

So I didn't get any sleep last night, but that doesn't matter. I never have to sleep again! I can just keep fighting monsters during the day, and talking to myself at night, and I'll never have any nightmares again! How great is that?

We talked about GIR, at first. I'm trying hard to forget but I still see him whenever I close my eyes, even for a single moment, and I hear the voices again. Whispering, laughing, telling me nothing has changed. I'm still just the same miserable failure.

NO! I won't let the TALLEST win again. I hate them for making me hate myself. Mirror-Zim told me he would kill him with his bare hands if he could. I would love to see that! So after we talked about how GIR went crazy and stuff, he began to tell me things like "Zim - is not - a Crystal Gem - because - Zim is - better than - a Crystal Gem!" Followed by the sound of my laughter.

Why does he hate the Gems so much? He's supposed to be another part of me, and I don't hate them anymore! I don't think I ever hated them, actually. Even when they were my greatest enemies, I respected them as worthy adversaries and all that. But Mirror-Zim hates their guts. Why is that? I've held onto this mirror for 12 years and I'm just now asking these questions.

Well today I'm on my own. It's my first day alone in a long time. Maybe I should've agreed to go on that walk with Steven. He visited me at the barn earlier today, but overheard me talking to the mirror. Perhaps I should have started the log entry there. Oh well. Anyhow, he took interest in the mirror and excitedly asked me if I would let him borrow it.

Of course I hesitated, but then I thought "Hey, what's the worst that can happen? They're my two favorite people, and Mirror-Zim **LIKES** Steven." So I told him he could take it. He thinks it's just a broken mirror I have sentimental value for. I'm sure he won't show the Gems. Why would he? I should probably go to the Temple, to let the Gems in on the GIR predicament. I also don't want to be alone too long.

...

Zim, signing off.

### **Log Entry #79.**

I'M TERRIFIED. I WORRY NOT JUST FOR THE MIRROR'S SAFETY, BUT FOR MY OWN. THEY'RE GOING TO FORCE ME TO HAND IT OVER! I CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN. IT DOESN'T LIKE THEM! IT WANTS TO BE WITH ME!

I was so close, so close... I was able to convince Pearl that I found the mirror stored in a box one day. She even handed the mirror back to Steven! But then Steven... STEVEN! HE JUST HAD TO TELL THEM ABOUT HIS BEACH-SUMMER-FUN-BUDDY. HE'S THE REASON WHY I'M HIDING BEHIND A ROCK.

Well. It's not all his fault. It's just MOSTLY his fault. He instructed the mirror to come out, BUT THE MIRROR COULD HAVE JUST REFUSED. And if I was able to control my dread, then I wouldn't have snatched the mirror out of his hands. And if I hadn't smacked Garnet, then I wouldn't have needed to run out the door like my life depended on it.

Oh my stars I smacked Garnet. What have I DONE. THEIR TRUST IN ME MUST BE COMPLETELY SHAKEN. I HEAR THEM CALLING. I'M RUNNING OUT OF TIME, WHAT DO I DO NOW. I SHOULD PROBABLY TALK TO THE MIRROR, RIGHT? YEAH. YEAH I'M GONNA STOP WRITING NOW.

...

ZIM, SIGNING OFF.

### **Log Entry #80.**

I sit atop a massive tower made entirely out of the ocean and I'm not dead; I'm not suffering. I'm not even in pain. I'm just numb.



To think for twelve years, the mirror was there. And "Mirror-Zim" acted as a reflection of myself. It felt like I finally had someone I understood to talk to. And, as such, I began to share many secrets with him. Secrets that are mine alone to know. But, as it turns out, I was gravely mistaken.

I was mistaken about a lot of things, it seems. "Mirror-Zim" was a Gem trapped in the mirror. And the Crystal Gems knew. They knew all this time, and they didn't do anything. GIR was wrong, I'm not a coward, they're the cowards! I did the right thing helping Lapis Lazuli!

She's the Gem I released from the mirror. If Steven hadn't asked to borrow the mirror, I would have unknowingly kept her trapped. Why didn't she tell me? I would have removed the gemstone years ago if I had only known. What if the friendship we built isn't real?

I saw this movie once where an heiress was captured by a revolutionary militant. The woman began to develop sympathy with her captor and even joined him in a robbery before they were eventually caught and jailed. Is my friendship with Lazuli just a form of that?

Her skirt is even like the one the heiress wore in the movie. I love the way it flows. She's very beautiful. But her eyes are sad. They're like mirrors themselves, I can see myself reflected through them when she looks to me.

After I did what the mirror asked, and Lazuli suddenly appeared, I was so overwhelmed with feelings I couldn't talk. I managed to catch her and help her stand, but I couldn't actually TALK to her before the Crystal Gems arrived.

Everything went wrong when they tried to attack her. She retaliated with her hydrokinesis... it's how I'm sitting atop this water tower as I write. It's how she slammed a giant water-fist onto the Crystal Gems, and formed a path through the ocean. And when she reached out her hand to me, I had faith that everything would be alright. I know that's stupid, trusting my fate to someone I had just met. What if I followed her and the water burned my skin? That would have disintegrated me for sure.

It doesn't matter, because I'm just fine. No, that's an oversimplification. I haven't spoken a single word to Lazuli since the skirmish on the beach. I don't know a single thing about her other than that she likes me and HATES the Crystal Gems. But I'm a Crystal Gem too!

Am I? So many other things have changed dramatically, maybe I'm now an enemy of the Crystal Gems. Just for helping someone. They were already hunting me down before I released Lazuli.

Hunting me like an animal as though our years of friendship meant nothing. Whatever happens, I won't let go of my friendship with Lazuli. A real person; not just another part of me. I must talk to her already! Here I go.

...

Zim, signing off.

---





## Chapter End Notes

All artwork is done by a friend!

Friend's Ao3 account:

<https://archiveofourown.org/users/EmeraldSeaBug/pseuds/EmeraldSeaBug>

And here's my friend's art blog on Tumblr full of water and honey:

<https://seabeescribbles.tumblr.com/>

# Chapter 21

## Chapter Notes

Hello there! Creators thrive off of feedback and I enjoyed reading every single one of the comments you guys left on the previous chapter! This chapter is special in two big ways. It progresses the story AND it's the first time you'll see new art drawn by my friend Cookie! Sea will still be drawing art, but Cookie will also help out! Sea and I both love her art, I'm sure you will too~

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

### Log Entry #81.

Update: I talked to Lapis Lazuli. She was very distant, it's clear she wants to leave the Earth at any cost. That's why she stole the Earth's ocean, she wants to stretch it far enough. Well I'm going to help her find another way. That's what friends do, stand by each other's side no matter what.

I've got some cool ideas. My best one involves a space suit, a bag of weasels, and the Flamin' Hot Cheezos snack food. I'm wearing my space suit right now, actually.

It's been 12 years since I wore a space suit. Piloting Mars was stupid fun. Haha, yes. I thought the Gems hijacked a rocket ship from the NASA place. That would have been exciting. But no, they simply borrowed one from a retired plumber. I assume he was an astronaut and then a plumber. Or maybe a plumber who went back to school, and then became an astronaut.

I hope he enjoyed being an astronaut. I enjoy being a Crystal Gem, most of the time. Being in the middle of my friends isn't fun at all. I just want Lapis to see Earth the way I see it. A world full of amazing possibilities! She was my mirror for twelve years, so why can't she? Why doesn't she want to stay on Earth with me? What else is there?

Well Lapis is no Homeworld Gem. Not after they mistook her for a Crystal Gem, not after being interrogated, and not after being tortured. Lapis couldn't give them any valuable information, so she was cast aside. Pearl recovered the mirror thousands of years later.

Oh, who am I kidding, Lapis Lazuli a Crystal Gem—that'll never happen. And why should it? Yes, we were friends for twelve years, but she was stuck alone with only her thoughts for thousands of years. I know what I have to do, and it's going to hurt. Saying goodbye to an old friend who I had just gotten to know.

...

Zim, signing off.

### **Log Entry #82.**

Saying goodbye is the worst. I have to go without seeing them for who knows how long. But it needed to be done. At least I didn't cry!

Shortly after I signed off, the Crystal Gems arrived at the water tower with Greg, Lion, and Connie in tow. They were on a mission to confront Lazuli and bring the ocean back. Of course, Lazuli didn't want them there. I didn't want them there either. I hadn't even gotten the pulsating garbage bag of filth encrusted rabid weasels!!

For a moment, I hoped that Steven and Lazuli could have a civil conversation about her predicament, but Lazuli's biggest enemy is herself. She lashed out. At the Crystal Gems, at Steven and his friend Connie, even at me when I told her to stop the fighting.

She didn't go down to fight the Crystal Gems herself, oh no. Instead she made water clones that had the ability to copy and repeat every single move the original Crystal Gems did. They were much more formidable opponents than the Holo-Pearls. Imagine if Lazuli made a water clone of me. I would be impressed by my clone, yet horrified, because it could easily kill me by shooting boiling hot water. I'm still the greatest Zim, though.

I didn't want to say anything at first, but then she nearly drowned the kids, and I couldn't stand any more of it. I shouted at her, she shouted back at me, we had our first **SERIOUS** shouting match before Steven summoned his shield for the second time ever. He was as upset by her actions as I was, maybe even more so.

The conflict was thankfully solved, not by brute force or sheer cunning but by spending a little time talking things out. I always said that Steven was going to be great one day, but I didn't know that day was going to come so soon. He's already the best Crystal Gem! The other Gems knew that Lazuli was trapped, and they didn't do anything. Steven saw that another Gem was in trouble and he helped her. Thanks to Steven's saliva, Lapis has been restored to her true form.

That's when I knew it was time to say goodbye. I believe in Steven. He can hold down the fort while I go on a... summer vacation. Lapis and I agreed that she'll fly me back to Earth for Steven's birthday. Happy summer vacation, Zim. Finally!!

...

Zim, signing off.

### **Log Entry #83.**

Lapis and I are on the moon! She's so much happier now that she's free from Earth, it's as if a huge weight has been lifted off her shoulders.

AND SPEAKING OF WEIGHT, there's no weight on the moon! It took a little getting used to at first but I think I've gotten the hang of it now. It's rather fun jumping and floating around in the air! Yes, jumping high without a care in the world.

World! Worlds! The plural form of world! I never thought I would be on another world, not after I blew up the ship. If we visit a major world with lots of space traffic, I could buy a used star ship from a dealer! And then I could visit Lapis whenever I want, after the space road trip ends. That would be neat. That would be very neat indeed!

I just hope we don't run into any Irkens during the road trip, that would be horrible. Then we would have to DESTROY them, and I really don't want to have to DESTROY anyone. Red and Purple can't know that I'm still alive! They've thought I was dead for over a decade! And it should stay that way, because Lapis and I can't be on the run, NOT WHEN WE'RE TRYING TO HAVE A FUN SPACE ROAD TRIP. THAT WOULDN'T BE FUN AT ALL.

Oh, I just remembered I promised the moon to GIR. Well, there's an abandoned Diamond Base here, I'll just use one of GIR's stickers to mark it. Him and Steven bought stickers of crying breakfast items, from a show they watch all the time. I don't know why they would want to watch a cartoon about people crying, but Steven says it's VERY well written.

...

Zim, signing off.

#### **Log Entry #84.**

Didn't I destroy Mars? And I assumed Mercury was broken loose from it's orbit to drift across the universe. It appears someone put them back into orbit, although why, I do not know.

I am, however, relieved that the rightful order has been restored. Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune. Aside from Earth, Mars is my favorite planet in the Sol System. Lapis's favorite is Neptune.

Wasn't there a ninth planet? Ah, well... Lapis and I visited every planet in the Sol System... but there are so many other star systems!!!

We've traveled to two planets outside of the Sol System so far. The first was Lepidopterra, a peaceful swamp planet and home of the Lepidopterrans. Lapis was amazed by the organic life, giant plants and creatures that are almost too weird to actually exist.

Lapis and I also saved a group of Lepidopterrans from their natural predator, the wild buglizard! The battle was tough, but we managed to defeat it and the natives rewarded us with tasty fruit!

Then we travelled to Kinet, home of the Kinecelerans. It's a light blue planet, where everything moves at breakneck speed. The Kinecelerans can run up to 500 miles per hour. Usually watching sports is an absolute bore to me, but not Kineceleran sports!

I feared that an Irken and a Gem side by side would attract attention, but the Lepidopterrans and Kinecelerans were very pleasant. I just hope that everyone we meet while traveling is as pleasant as they were.

And now we're heading to Arburia, home planet of the Arburian Pelarota. It's a great vacation spot. Lapis, fly us in!

...



Zim, signing off.

---







## Chapter End Notes

All artwork is done by my friends!

Friend's Ao3 account:

<https://archiveofourown.org/users/Cookiemonster2000/pseuds/Cookiemonster2000>

Friend's Invader Zim sideblog: <https://vampirepiggyhunterdefensesquad.tumblr.com/>

And here's my friend's Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/thecookieshoparts/>

## Chapter 22

### Chapter Notes

Okay this chapter is shorter than the previous ones, but there are parts of it that I loved writing and I hope you all enjoy it!

#### **Log Entry #85.**

Arburia has been destroyed! The premier vacation spot of the cosmos, totally blown away! A big tick destroyed the planet years ago. Yes, an alien tick that devours planets from the inside out, destroying them. The tick was itself destroyed by an Arburian Pelarotta, ironically enough.

That's what the Xilactian Historian told us. Lapis and I went to The Universe's Biggest Ball of Shmoop and she was the gift shop owner. She explained why she went into hiding, something about protecting jump codes to an array? Well it's a shame that Aburia has been destroyed.

I suppose Lapis and I may as well travel to the other tourist attractions across the galaxy. There's The Galaxy's Largest Space Donut, The Smelliest Space in Space, The Infinite Head, The Schmapsiest Doink in Squoop, The Space Whatever, and hundreds of others.

Interestingly enough, the Xilactian thanked me for being "such a great customer, not a vandal like the Irken who arrived just before you did." An Irken was looking for the codes. I wonder what an Irken would want with a transmitter. Irkens only care about snacks and blowing things up.

Well that historian told us the codes just because we bought a bunch of stuff. She's terrible at keeping secrets.

...

Zim, signing off.

#### **Log Entry #86.**

Dark matter is a HORRIBLE idea for a donut filling. I vomited into space!

Without Garnet and Pearl, a lot of my impulse control is gone. Maybe that's why I've bought so much stuff, most of which is terrible. This shirt is too big, these shoes are ugly, and this fanny pack is stupid and useless!!!! I like the hat, though.

Lapis also bought a bunch of stuff, probably because she saw me buying stuff. Why else would she buy clothes she doesn't need to wear, and food she doesn't need to eat?

We've bought so much stuff, that there's nowhere to store it anymore. I've run out of PAK space! And PAKs are way bigger on the inside, so that's a lot more impressive than it sounds.

I'm going to find a starship dealer and buy a ship from him. There has to be one somewhere on this planet. If not, I don't know where we're going to store all this stuff.

...

Zim, signing off.

### **Log Entry #87.**

I bought the starship! It's not much, but it'll do. And now Lapis and I are both able to fly! The dealer was a Vortian, it's a shame to see how far they've fallen. Vort was Irk's strongest ally once. But they were cast aside. The dealer was hesitant to sell me the ship, and I think he shot me a dirty look, but I'm not too sure. He could've just had beady eyes. All Vortians have beady eyes, now that I think about it.

I was actually stationed on a Vort Research Station, Research Station 9. Back when I was a scientist. There was this one jerk who worked on preliminary designs for the Massive, back when it was called the Bludgeon-class Fleet Leader. He kept telling me that my project was doomed for failure, and that I should quit... working... on it.

Hmm, I suppose he was right after all. The infinite energy absorbing thing did end up eating Tallest

Miyuki. What was that guy's name, anyway? Rad Na... Pad See Ew... something like that, I bet.

Now I'm hungry. I should get some real food, the last thing I had to eat was that crummy dark matter donut. Grrr.

...

Zim, signing off.

### **Log Entry #88.**

Lard Nar. The Vortian's name was Lard Nar.

I know that because his ship used it's tractor beams to pull my ship into it's hanger! The Vortian who sold me the starship was one of his spies! The nerve of that Lard Nar!!!!

I mean, I understand WHY he did it, I'm an Irken and he's the leader of an organization created to overthrow the Irken Empire, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I HAVE TO LIKE IT.

Lapis and I aren't in danger or anything, she was about to bust some heads until the Resisty crew learned who they were dealing with.

ZIM! The Irken responsible for the deaths of two Tallest, and responsible for the near collapse of the Irken Empire! They don't know that I did all that accidentally.

This guy named Shloonkapooxis has been giving us a tour of Lard Nar's flagship. One of the last Vortian starships. I didn't know any were left! I wonder what I'm going to say to him. Surely Lard Nar will remember me.

I'll just tell him the truth, that I rejected the Irken Empire years ago and want nothing to do with them. He'll probably ask if I want to join the Resistance, I'll say thanks, but no thanks, and Lapis and I will be on our way.

I can't get involved. And I can't get Lapis involved! It's not that I like the empire; far from it, but there's nothing I can do about it right now. I hope they win their fight.

...

Zim, signing off.

## Chapter 23

### Chapter Notes

Hi all, sorry that I didn't post a chapter last week. I was just SO busy. If I don't post one week, then you can expect the chapter to be posted next week. And speaking of which-

#### **Log Entry #89.**

Oh yeah, Lard Nar remembered me, alright.

I wasn't sure what to make of his initial reaction, because he got cut off mid sentence by his second in command. Admittedly, it felt good hearing the Resistance members rave about me. I created a blackout that plunged Irk into darkness not once, but twice! Then I did the same to Devastis! And I killed two Tallest! My greatest "achievement" was destroying half of Irk, during Operation Impending Doom I.

While this isn't new information, I was amazed how positive the Resistance members were. As I said in my previous log entry, they didn't know I was only accidentally the cause of most of Irk's disasters. And there I was, in their captain's private quarters. A meeting of the heroes.

Except I wasn't a hero. I'd like to think that I'm a hero now, but I certainly wasn't back then. And that's the Zim Lard Nar knew. But as an intelligent leader, he also knew that it's important to get a positive crew culture onboard. So he greeted me by exclaiming "Zim! My old friend!" followed by a strong handshake. At first I thought he must have had the brain worms. What was he doing giving me a handshake? He didn't know that I rejected the Irken Empire, joined a rebel cell, and did all sorts of cool and interesting stuff on Earth!

I didn't know what was really going on until everyone else left his private quarters, and it was just us two former military scientists. Lard Nar only acted like we were good friends to boost morale. His crew members needed a really big morale boost after losing terribly. He called me a coward for not wanting to get involved, and that hurt. That really hurt! I'm not a coward! He treated me like a child and said I could run away at any time. "I've got enough problems as it is, I don't need you messing things up, as always."

Yeah, okay.

...

Zim, signing off.

### **Log Entry #90.**

THE RESISTY SHIP IS UNDER ATTACK. ONE MINUTE I'M HEADING TO THE HANGAR BAY AND THE NEXT I'M RUNNING FROM A BOARDING PARTY. THIS IS BAD. HORRIBLY, HORRIBLY BAD. I'M CURRENTLY IN A WAR ROOM WITH SOME GUYS WORKING AT COMPUTER STATIONS AND THEY KEEP ASKING ME "WHAT DO WE DO NOW???" WELL I DON'T KNOW!!!

This is SUCH AN ORDEAL. They think I'm a LIEUTENANT. Not just a soldier in the Resisty, but like, A PRETTY BIG DEAL IN THE RESISTY. And I WOULD tell them the truth, but this isn't the time for that! Or, maybe this is exactly the time for that.

This is a WAYYY bigger challenge than fighting Corrupted Gems. I don't know how to lead! Garnet is the leader! And I'm the good soldier who follows orders! WHERE THE HELL IS LARD NAR??? I CAN'T TAKE THIS!!!! I'M AT MY LIMIT!!!!

...

AAA OKAY ZIM SIGNING OFF.

### **Log Entry #91.**

I admit it. Lard Nar was right, I'm a coward. A coward is someone who avoids what they fear, and I feared getting involved in the conflict. So I ran! I ran away, and left those men to die. Lard Nar, Spleenk, all of them. I'm a disgrace.

At least Lapis is here to comfort me. Her words put a smile in my heart. I feel like scum, and I even told her that I feel like scum. She said "well if you're scum, that makes me scum too. Let's be

scum together!” Yeah. Let’s be scum together. Just not rebel scum.

Why should I get involved, anyway? The Tallest aren’t coming to Earth. To them it’s just “that place where Zim died.” I haven’t thought about them in a million years. They mean as little to me now as I did to them. It’s true that if I showed up to the Massive uninvited, and fought my way through all their best ships and guards, I could finally let go of my accursed guilt. The Crystal Gems back on Earth would be so proud of me! I could be proud of myself again! Not to mention the look on Red and Purple’s faces... hmm.

That reminds me of something. Towards the end of the battle, a Commander boarded the ship. And she recognized me! This woman was absolutely seething. She told all her men to fire on me! It’s a good thing Lapis flew me out of there just in time.

I feel like I should know who that woman is.

...

Zim, signing off.

## **Log Entry #92.**

It’s official, I’m joining the fight against the Irken Empire. At first, I was unsure if openly rebelling was a good idea. But now I’ve convinced myself that there’s no other way.

Now I feel the need to explain myself. After the battle was over, Lapis flew to the nearest planet. And it just so happened that the planet she landed on was a planet inhabited by Arburian Pelarotas! They aren't extinct from the universe! After Arburia was destroyed by the Great One, the survivors moved to live on this planet. Some Pelarotas moved to live on Vulpin, home of the Vulpimancers, but that planet is a toxic waste dump.

For a little while, I could forget what happened in the past. But then the Gargantis Array happened. I mentioned in a previous log entry that an Irken was looking for the codes to a transmitter. And now I know why. It's so that the Tallest can broadcast when they're claiming another planet. The Invader program is being phased out. Announcing their conquest is arrogant AND stupid. I can't believe I ever thought they were cool.



Seeing them for the first time in years... filled me with a hatred I never knew. Honestly, when I saw their condescending smiles, I wanted to punch a hole in the wall. Really, really hard. That's why I'm joining the fight. I've had enough of hiding. It's time to stop being a coward, and start being amazing! The Tallest were too stupid to see how amazing I am, but they'll see. Oh they'll see. Haha, yes.

My plan to take on the Tallest is gonna be great! Phase one is defending the Arburian Pelarotas. Phase two is retaking other planets from the forces of the Irken Empire. Phase three is demanding an audience with the Tallest, and phase four is decking them both in the face!

I hope I'll be able to get to Steven's birthday in time. Oh, what if I defend the Arburian Pelarotas, go to Earth, and then go back with Lapis when the celebrations are over? I'm sure Steven would understand.

Lapis understands that I need to do this. She's hated Red and Purple's guts for years. The two of us wasting fools, I love it!

...

Zim, signing off.

## Chapter 24

### Chapter Notes

I've decided to post chapters every other week! It's easier on me, and I can spend more time writing something that I'm proud of, rather than cranking new ones out. Tell me what you think of the direction this story has been going in so far! I try to respond to every comment!

### Log Entry #93.

Phase one of my amazing plan to destroy the Irken Empire begins now!!!! Protecting the Arburian Pelarotas from Red and Purple. They have to fight too. Everyone has started putting up defenses and training. It's a good thing these people aren't entirely helpless.

With enhanced strength, speed, and durability, the Arburian Pelarotas are more than capable of defending their homes. Their only weakness is conservation of momentum. They have difficulty controlling their direction if they pick up too much speed. And they're top-heavy, which makes them unbalanced and clumsy. Lapis finds it very entertaining.

Under my tutelage, the Arburian Pelarotas can be cunning warriors. But we've only got three days! I have to remember what Pearl taught me! Give everything you've got! And what do I have? The ever-present Swiss Army knife that is my PAK. Spider legs, laser guns, an audio communicator, a shield generator, a jetpack, even an organ-harvesting device! I never found use for that last one.

Every Irken has these tools, and while it's true that I've made a few modifications, I don't need them. While the other Irkens were lounging in their thrones, I was busy training with warriors! And fighting horrible monsters! I mean, I've done so much cool stuff on Earth, even I don't remember all of it! That's what the log entries are for, you know.

I seriously can't wait for the Irkens to show up. Not because I want this planet to be in danger! These people will be safe, Lapis and I will leave as heroes, and no conquerors will ever return. If they do, they'll share the same fate as the original Invaders. Crushed into oblivion by ZIM!!!

Well, I've gotta go. One of the Arburian Pelarotas has fallen and he can't get up. How sad and embarrassing. I need to train them even harder until we can get past that weakness. Like I said, they're strong, but that's a pretty big weakness.

...

Zim, signing off.

#### **Log Entry #94.**

A platoon of Irken Imperial Troopers arrived less than an hour ago. They ordered the Arburian Pelarotas to hand over their planet without resistance. Yes, they're so arrogant, that they didn't even consider the possibility of rebellion. I suppose that's what happens when you're used to so much winning.

That's why I'm very proud to say that the Irkens retreated, and the first battle is over! Of course, I realize that reinforcements are on their way. I wonder how many they'll send, now that they know the natives are more than capable of defending themselves. They'll probably send a few battle tanks. It's also safe to assume that a commander will be sent. Someone to act as a team leader. And they'll be good. Not good like me, but still good. The Arburian Pelarotas can leave them to me.

I've already trained them to master reaction timing, reflexes, and balance. Especially balance. Now I know they're ready for whatever their opponents can throw at them. Ya know, now that I think about it, this victory doesn't really belong to me.

Like I said, that was only the first battle, so I'll be doing more than observing soon enough. I'll be blowing things up! I'm the best at blowing things up, always have been. This time I'll be blowing things up on purpose! And with Lapis involved, this is going to be a lot of fun. I'm the only Irken who'll be happy to see Lapis on the battlefield. The rest will be paralyzed. And I'll be laughing.

...

Zim, signing off.

#### **Log Entry #95.**

HAH! YES! TANKS HAVE BEEN DESTROYED! ENEMY SHIPS HAVE BEEN SHOT DOWN! AND DOOM HAS BEEN RAINED DOWN UPON THE HEADS OF OUR DOOMED ENEMIES! THIS IS AMAZING! I FEEL INCREDIBLE!

And the best part is, no one has died so far! It's true that we were outgunned by a wide margin, but the Arburian Pelarotas were considerably better motivated. I suppose three days of Crystal Gem training are worth more than thirty years of Irken military training. All the Arburian Pelarotas needed was a field commander. They're nigh-invulnerable when in spherical form!

Of course, I wasn't content with observing. So I left my command post, and I helped push the Imperials back. They looked scared and confused when I fired on them. Perhaps the soldiers perceived it as a horrible case of friendly fire. But not the Irken Elite. He knew who I was, and that scared him more than any case of friendly fire ever could.

They really thought they had seen the last of me. And now I'm back! I've always been armed with a ferocious devotion, but this time I actually want to doom them. Oh yes, I doomed them alright. Not only did I doom the Irken soldiers I also doomed a tank! At the tail end of the battle, I quickly ran up to the final remaining tank's side. And I took out my fusion cutter. The tank kept trying to shoot me, but it was never able to. Finally, I was able to slice the pilot out of the tank. And I hopped inside! The foolish Irken soldiers didn't stand a chance.

Under normal circumstances, this would be the time for celebration. However, the Irkens have managed one last effort, and sent a few cruisers. I'll take care of them.

...

Zim, signing off.

### **Log Entry #96.**

OH MAN IT WAS TAK. SHE WAS THE COMMANDER. I HAVEN'T THOUGHT ABOUT HER IN YEARS. WOW. SHE'S... ODDLY IRRELEVANT. SO... I took care of the Imperial Troopers, just like I said I would. They weren't exactly hard to fight, but I was all tuckered out when Tak began to deliver her bitter, rambling monologue.

Tak and I loathed each other. She said that it wasn't about revenge, but she totally wanted revenge

on me. After I saved the Earth and left her for dead in outer space, she waited for her revenge. When reports came through that I had died, Tak didn't believe it. I don't mean she was in shock, I mean she literally didn't believe it. She was briefly imprisoned in Moo-Ping 10, broke out, entered a SIR Unit competition and eventually impressed the Tallest so much they had no choice but to make her an Invader, and eventually Commander. Somewhere in the back of her mind she knew we would cross paths again, and when Tak saw me in the Vortian ship's hangar area, her heart was filled with UNYEILDING RAGE! I didn't even know who she was. It's actually kind of pathetic. I was almost happy to have her swinging at me again. If only I had known that the brief battle was ultimately pointless.

Tak's defeat came at the hands of Lapis! She was watching from the sidelines, waiting to tag in. Tak stood no chance against a stream of scalding hot water. On top of her weakness to water, the implant on her head caused her to be electrocuted. What a way to go. She won't be missed. While Lapis and I dealt with Tak, the Irken soldiers begged for mercy from the Arburian Pelotas. Then they retreated! Phase one of my ingenious plan to topple the Irken Empire was a complete success! Now onto the next phase of my plan, which is my greatest and most incredible plan for sure!!!!

...

Zim, signing off.

## Chapter 25

### Chapter Notes

Writing what happens to Zim and Lapis between Mirror Gem / Ocean Gem and The Return / Jailbreak has been a lot of fun! I hope you've been enjoying these chapters so far, as Zim attempts to take down the Irken Empire. Let's see how that goes!

#### **Log Entry #97.**

Phase one was a complete success, so I decided it was time to begin phase two of my amazing plan!

Plans for the Irken galactic conquest seem to have gone pretty smoothly. That's because I wasn't there to make things more difficult. So what I'm going to do is liberate every single planet that's been conquered by the Irken Empire.

In fact, I've been doing it already! That's right, I liberated two planets between log entries. They weren't the big planets like Foodcourtia or Devastis. Just smaller, less important planets. I don't even remember their names, if I'm being completely honest.

One was a rock planet inhabited by beings of pure rock. The Rock Species are quite stupid. How did they fall for Flobee's horrible disguise? He just strapped rocks onto his body and they hailed him as their king! Well, Flobee's dead now. All I had to do was ask if I could meet their leader, they took me to him, and I shot him in the chest. It was sadly anticlimactic. Lapis joked that the Rock Species were too stupid to even understand they were being saved.

The other planet was striped. I don't know how Skutch managed to conquer it. He was a total failure in the academy. And I enjoyed destroying him. Anyhow, just as Lapis and I were about to head to Boodie Nen we were stopped by Skutch's SIR Unit. Not only that, but also Flobee's! I was wondering where Flobee's SIR Unit was. It tracked us there, only to be destroyed. Such a waste. Seeing those SIR Units reminded me of GIR. I only hope GIR is back to being his old self. I miss him. I miss him a lot.

GRRR NO! This isn't soft hours time! This is the time to strike!!!!

...

Zim, signing off.

### **Log Entry #98.**

Another day, another victory for Zim. Just as I predicted. I might grow tired of winning all the time.

Admittedly, I didn't predict the "Large-Nostril people" would die. They're a species native to the planet Boogie Nien. Like the Rock Species, they were unintelligent. Brave, but unintelligent. It's sad that a few of them died in battle. Invader Slacks resorted to cheap tricks! Using a Megadoomer while it was invisible, that's actually good! Way better than his horrible disguise, that's for sure. Do all Irkens wear horrible disguises? Well, Tak had a good disguise. These other Irkens I've fought are way worse than her.

To give credit to Slacks, I had to use one of the Large-Nostril people as a shield! Pretty terrible, yes, but the Megadoomer's missiles almost killed me!!!! It was Invader Slacks who was responsible for the death of that Large-Nostril person. And the Large-Nostril person who I told to see if the coast was clear. I thought it was! I really thought it was!!!!

All in all, I'm still pretty good at winning. Even if a few people had to die. The remaining Large-Nostril people can go back to their simple lives, while Lapis and I go back to saving other simple people, on small tiny planets.

...

Zim, signing off.

### **Log Entry #99.**

My plan is working perfectly! So perfectly, in fact, that I've decided to skip a few steps and just doom the Tallest already.

That way Lapis and I won't have to go to every single planet the Irken Empire has conquered. And I really wanna doom the Tallest. And now I know where they are. Or more accurately, where they're going to be.

First we raided an Imperial outpost on planet Dooq. I remember Dooq, and not very fondly. When I was still in training to become an Invader, I was part of a force sent to conquer it. The first attempt failed thanks to me, but the second was a success.

I actually meant to set off those explosions this time! My old commander was still around, and she wasn't too happy to see me. I interrogated and tortured her. Lapis looked uncomfortable the whole time, but I assured her that it needed to be done. Think about how many people we'll be saving once the Empire is destroyed! Besides, Poki's a jerk. She gets no sympathy from me.

Now I know the Irken Armada's flight plan. This is going to be great! Soon the Irken Empire will be ashes, and my revenge will be complete. Along with the liberation of countless planets, of course. Yes, that's what this has all been about. I'm only doing what a Crystal Gem is supposed to do! Protect people. I'm doing this to protect people.

...

Zim, signing off.

### **Log Entry #100.**

Has it really been 100 log entries? That's amazing! And what a log entry, the end of the Irken Empire is near.

Lapis and I headed towards what seemed like a barren and lifeless planet. Instead, we arrived on a city-covered planet named Plim, inhabited by a species of the same name! A holographic feed surrounds the planet, shorting out the electronics of anything passing through.

These simple-minded people have a prophecy. That a hero will fall from the sky and take down the field that left them stranded here. They can't decide whether or not the hero is me or Lapis. Their prophesied hero would have access to a vault, containing the deadliest weapons in the whole universe!



I could just let the Massive pass by, wait for the field to do it's thing, and leave them here to die. But that's no fun. I'll be the hero and use the ancient weapons myself. There's no way this is going to fail. Literally no way! My victory is inevitable!!!!

...

Zim, signing off.

## Chapter 26

### Chapter Notes

As many of you have already guessed, things are about to go south for Zim it's been fun though, right? Alright, let's do this.

#### **Log Entry #101.**

Well, this really puts a damper on things. Those deadly Plim weapons? They don't exist. They never did! The Vault of the Forbidden only contained archived Feed TV shows. With titles like "THE WORLD DEMOLISHER" and "THE VIOLENT DE-BONER" how was I NOT supposed to think they were weapons???

I hate the Feed. And I've got to be honest, I'm starting to hate the Plim as well, because they don't even have a problem with being conquered! Their reliance on the Feed was no different from being enslaved. I'm not fighting to save these idiots, I'm fighting to destroy the Irken Empire. And to crush Red and Purple.

This isn't going to be as easy as I thought. An Irken fleet arrived as soon as the field went down. The commander of the fleet mistook me for an Invader and thanked me for my part in conquering the planet, before I shot him in the chest and Lapis flew me out of there. Under normal circumstances the Tallest would either pass by Plim or destroy it. The Tallest intend to conquer the planet and destroy me, so the Massive has been hovering over it for the past few minutes.

The more I think about it, the more I realize I don't even need advanced Plim weaponry! Not when I have a Lazuli on my side! She can just kill them all! Hah! My victory is inevitable!

...

Zim, signing off.

#### **Log Entry #102.**

Okay, things REALLY aren't going as planned. Now there are Gems on the planet too! I probably should've expected this though. The Plim did say that there were many different kinds of crashed ships, and it only makes sense that the Gems would have an interest in the planet as well. I don't think they know about the Vault of the Forbidden, I think they just wanted to prevent the Irkens from having a historic moment.

This could work to my advantage. Now there are two empires fighting each other for control of the planet. And in the chaos, I can sneak my way onto the Massive.

These Homeworld Gems I've encountered so far are pretty unimpressive. They're much weaker than any Crystal Gem. Giant Rubies presented somewhat of a challenge, but I've faced bigger opponents in the past, and I was still able to take them down all the same.

I've sent Lapis to do some reconnaissance. She's always been happy to assist me, but now she's beginning to disappoint me. Lapis is fine with killing Irken soldiers, but she doesn't want to shatter any Gems. I don't know why. They were the ones who interrogated and tortured her, so she should want to take her revenge! Like how I'm taking my revenge on the Irken Empire!

I'm only poofing the Homeworld Gems, not shattering them. Maybe I should topple the Gempire next. Yeah. Yeah, maybe I should! Then I'll be an even bigger hero, the biggest in the whole universe! The Crystal Gems will be so proud of me when I return to Earth! If Lapis isn't going to take her revenge, then I'll just do it for her!

Even when things don't go as planned, I always find a way to win! Like I said, my victory is inevitable! There's no one who can stop me. Not Tak. Not the other Invaders, and certainly not their SIR Units. Those robots were trash! Wait, no, my SIR Unit is literally made out of trash. So yes, I'm saying their SIR Units are the lowest on the worthless scale. At least they were, anyway. Before I destroyed them all.

I think I'm going to end the log entry here. One Plim told me his weak-minded neighbors have begun worshipping a powerful Gem warrior, one who might be even stronger than me, their hero! Well, Lapis was their chosen hero but she felt uncomfortable with the title so the Plim named me their hero instead. This should be a good warm up before I take on the Massive.

...

Zim, signing off.

## **Log Entry #103.**

I've never been as humiliated as I have been today. That wasn't a warm up... it was a massacre! I'm ashamed to admit that the Gem warrior absolutely destroyed me. Not just my arms... and legs... and probably some other things... but my pride as well. The only thing she didn't destroy was my PAK. Thankfully.

After I introduced myself, and smack-talked my opponent, I whipped out my laser guns and used them to set fire to her! I believed I killed her! But then she appeared to the right of me unfazed. And it was then that I knew that this Gem was different. Different from any Homeworld Gem I had faced up to that point. Not only that, but different from anyone I had ever faced, period. She's a terrifying warrior, more cunning than Tak and perhaps even more powerful than Garnet.

I attempted to punch and kick her, but she dodged every single one of my attacks! Then she proceeded to completely dominate me with kicks and combos of her own. That MONSTER left me on the brink of DEATH.

But then Lapis arrived. My savior, at last! I thought to myself "yes, now it'll become a real battle! A winnable battle!" But I was wrong. Before the fighting could even begin, Lapis was tased from behind by another Homeworld Gem.

That's not how I thought how it was going to go. That's not how I thought it was going to go AT ALL. I WAS SO CLOSE TO ACHIEVING GREATNESS. SO CLOSE. AND THOSE HOMEWORLD GEMS TOOK THAT FROM ME. THEY'VE TAKEN AWAY MY HONOR, AND MY PRIDE!!!!

They may have taken away my pride, AND my honor, but they haven't broken my spirit. I'm going to alter the plan. First I will destroy the Homeworld Gem. And then I'll destroy Red and Purple. I just don't know where they are. If they're still on the planet or if they left days ago.

Ah yes, that's right, I almost forgot to mention that I was KO'd for a few days. At least I assume it was for a few days. It could've been a few weeks. I don't know how long I've been imprisoned in this ship cell, but what I do know is that I've got to get out of here, and find Lapis Lazuli!

...

Zim, signing off.

### **Log Entry #104.**

This is outrageous. It's humiliating! As if my predicament couldn't get any worse, I've been bartered as a hostage by Jasper! That's the Gem warrior's name. Not only have I been bartered as a hostage, I've been UNSUCCESSFULLY bartered.

All this time spent hunting the Tallest down, only for Jasper to bring me right to them. I was barely conscious. I couldn't even hurl insults at them, let alone destroy them!

The reason I was barely conscious is because I hurled insults at Jasper earlier. I just kept pushing. Then I insulted the Diamonds, and Jasper beat me up.

When Jasper unceremoniously dropped me on the floor, the Tallest looked at me with disgust, hatred, and maybe a little bit of fear. I'm sure they didn't want to believe the rumors. That I was still alive somehow. How could they possibly believe that when they watched me die with their own eyes?

The Tallest didn't even make any witty remarks. They didn't seem to take enjoyment in my misery. I suppose they've finally grown tired of the joke. Sending me on a "secret mission" to Earth, giving me a SIR Unit made out of trash, they could've killed me right from the start but they didn't.

Now I think they just don't wanna think about me ever again. They probably thought "well if Zim is in the prison block of a Gem ship light years away, he can rot while we get back to what we were doing." Whatever it was those idiots were doing. I dunno, licking doorknobs? Wait, that's illegal on other planets.

Red and Purple want me to be someone else's problem. Yeah, that's what they've always done, now that I think about it. They've known me for so long. Perhaps they've grown to be terrified of me. After all, I was the kid who nearly doomed our planet with one shenanigan. So as Tallests, Red and Purple had to keep pretending. It wasn't a gag, it was out of fear.

Or maybe both. Or neither. Really, I don't know what goes on in their heads. It's all speculation, really. Wouldn't it be amazing if I was right, though? Anyway, back to my dilemma. I'm stuck in this horrible Gem cell, blocked by a yellow force field. I don't know how I'm going to get out. I

don't even know where Lapis is! If Jasper hurt her, I'll make her suffer, like I suffered. No, I'll make her suffer even worse. Even if she's more powerful than me, I always win in the end. I have no idea how I'll win, I just know that I'll win. And when I beat Jasper, Red and Purple are doomed. I may have suffered a serious setback, but that's all it is. A setback! A horrible, terrifying one.

I don't even really care about the Gem technician that follows Jasper around. I think her name is Peridot? She's irrelevant to me. Wait. I think I hear her heading my way right now!

...

Zim, signing off.

## Chapter 27

### Chapter Notes

Here we are at the end of another arc! The moment you've all been waiting for, the Jailbreak chapter! I had fun revisiting classic Steven Universe episodes in the first half of the arc, and then writing original content! Also, expect more art of previous chapters very soon! I can't wait to read all the comments :DDD

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

### Log Entry #105.

Peridot threw Lapis into the cell with me. And I mean she literally THREW poor Lapis to the ground! I nearly decked Peridot in the face for that. How DARE she treat my friend so HORRIBLY. I can't wait until we're free from this awful place, and I never have to see her again.

While Lapis was all groggy, I hatched a plan. An amazing plan. One so amazing, that it even amazes me. I love when I amaze myself with my brain!

I won't get into detail, but know this! My plan involves gigabombs. Lots and lots of gigabombs. I sure do love using gigabombs. They're destructive little marvels. Like me!

...

Zim, signing off.

### Log Entry #106.

The plan wasn't as amazing as I thought it was. I was able to break out, but Lapis slowed me down. She was still groggy, you see. Peridot found us before we could make our way to the escape pods. Then Jasper beat me up, and now we're back in our cell.

Just because I failed, DOESN'T mean I'm not amazing. I'm quite amazing. I've already proven that

I'm the most incredible Irken of my generation. Perhaps I'm the most incredible Irken who's ever lived. HAHA, yes. The Control Brains were right about me. I AM the most incredible Irken ever!!!

Also! That reminds me. When I've broken out of this Handship, I'm going to pay the Control Brains a visit. They, like the Tallest, will die. The entire Irken Empire will die by my hand, then the Gempire, and finally every single warlord in the universe. If I'm going to be the most incredible Irken who ever lived, I've got to wipe out the warlords!

But I'm getting ahead of myself, aren't I? I've hatched another plan. A better plan. This plan involves Lapis Lazuli, so it can't possibly fail!

...

Zim, signing off.

### **Log Entry #107.**

The plan failed. It failed because Lapis Lazuli panicked at the last second, leading to our capture. Oh, and Jasper hit me again.

That HURT! Jasper may have thwarted my plans TWICE now, but she hasn't broken my spirit! She hasn't even come CLOSE to doing that. And you know why??? I'VE SAID IT BEFORE AND I'LL SAY IT AGAIN, MY VICTORY IS INEVITABLE!!!!

My victory simply hasn't come yet. It's taking longer than expected. Yes, that's all. When my victory finally does arrive, it'll be my most glorious one yet. I've had many glorious victories in the past, so that's saying something!

I got frustrated that Lapis failed me, but I ultimately forgave her. Well of course I forgave her, she's my best friend!

I've prepared a speech and everything. "Lapis, there is hope! Anything is possible with the proper guidance and I'm telling you right now... we can get out of this cell if you only believe that we can! Trust me!"



Isn't it such a great speech? A Crystal Gem speech! Pearl would be proud, I'm sure. I've schemed up a storm since Jasper threw us back in here. One of these schemes is bound to succeed.

...

Zim, signing off.

### **Log Entry #108.**

Update: each of those schemes ended in failure. If Lapis didn't lose heart completely, that last scheme would've been successful, I just know it!

That's bad enough, but I've learned a terrible truth. Jasper and Peridot are heading to Earth! They plan on using Lapis as their informant. Now I'm EVEN MORE determined to make a break for it. Things keep getting worse all the time.

Lapis omitted facts from Jasper and Peridot, for Steven's sake. It's good that she hid information from them, however, she doesn't want to leave the cell because she believes it's for the best that we don't try to escape. Well that's just ridiculous!

She said she doesn't want to watch me get beaten to a pulp again, but I don't CARE how many times I get hurt. I need to warn Garnet, Amethyst, and Pearl! That's the only way we're going to help Steven, by breaking free! Not by remaining in our cell, and hoping they'll go easy on us.

I'm so disappointed in her. I've seen that Gem steal the Atlantic Ocean, and lay waste to Irken armies. She should be helping me!

Even if she won't, I'll come back for her at some point. I don't know how it took me so long to realize this, but the Handship wasn't made to hold biological beings like myself. Only Gems.

This is perfect! I can escape the ship through an escape pod, make a rough landing on some planet, get my hands on a ship, and fly towards Earth! Okay, there's no way THIS will end in failure!

...

Zim, signing off.

### **Log Entry #109.**

I almost did it, you know. I was able to make a break for it, I could've been on Earth by now! But Jasper caught me again, and this time was different. Worse than any of those other times.

I didn't get hurt. Oh I wish I was the one who got hurt. Jasper started coming back way sooner than anticipated and found Lapis alone. She began to beat her up.

Lapis didn't do ANYTHING wrong. That was completely horrible! I wish Lapis had done something, anything other than trying to cower! I came BACK to try to defend her, because it's okay to hurt ME but not my BEST FRIEND! That's not fair! That's not fair at all!

Jasper caught me when I rushed in to help, but didn't leave a mark on me, all she did was restrain me. And she forced me to watch helplessly while Peridot finished destroying Lapis's remaining shreds of hope, like the MONSTERS they are.

I wish they hadn't separated us. So that I could talk to her. I don't want to be alone with my thoughts. I miss when Lapis would comfort me, either as the mirror or as herself. I've spent a lot of time with Lapis these past few months, and yet... I still don't feel as if I truly know Lapis Lazuli.

She always trusted me, always believed in me! When it came to rising up against the Irken Empire, that is. Or rebelling against the Crystal Gems. Never the Diamonds, though. Whatever they did to her, it must have been truly awful.

That's why I wanted to enact revenge... FOR her. Things were going so perfectly! Then it went all wrong. Why can't things just turn out like they should? What's wrong with doing something great for my friend? My best friend in the whole universe!

Universe, hmm. Garnet, Amethyst, and Pearl had better give all their might if they hope to stand

any chance against Jasper and Peridot. The latter Gem is looking for Steven, Lapis doesn't know how she knows his name.

How much does Peridot know about Steven? If she thinks he's just a troublesome human, then maybe she wouldn't have bothered telling Jasper! That's good, because if Peridot knew what Steven really is... I don't even wanna think about what would happen next.

...

Zim, signing off.

### **Log Entry #110.**

Oh great, the night terrors are back. I had started to think that they were well and truly over, but I've been mistaken about many things in the past.

I thought I could face the whole Irken Empire as long as I had Lapis on my side. I never stopped to think about how Lapis felt, because I assumed she would be by my side no matter what.

But I just kept pushing. Saving one planet became freeing every planet under imperial control, then that became targeting imperial bases, and then THAT became sneaking my way onto the Massive and dealing with Almighty Tallest Red and Purple myself!

And as if that wasn't enough, I began to set my sights on toppling the Gem Empire, and all the villains in the universe. I told myself that I was doing a good thing, and maybe it was, but doing a good thing for the wrong reasons is bad.

Garnet told me that once, during a failed mission. I didn't write about it in a log entry because I didn't WANT to write about it. There have been several instances over the years where I failed on a mission, and I chose not to write about it.

I should probably talk about the nightmare that caused my night terror. It started out as a sweet dream, I think. I don't remember much about it, only flashes of Lapis's face. Her face became my face. Except it wasn't my face. There was something twisted about it.

I did terrible things. Well I didn't do terrible things, he did! He was the one who caused pain and suffering. I tried to stop it, but I couldn't. I was too weak.

Then I woke up, and I was left with shame and self-loathing. Sometimes I feel like a fraud. That I don't belong on the team with Garnet, Amethyst, Pearl, and Steven. To the core, maybe I'm still the same terrible person I always was.

I can't let the Crystal Gems know about these nightmares. What would they even say? I only trust Lapis.

Does she still trust me? The next time I see her, I'm going to apologize for putting her in harm's way. We'll have a long talk. Our talks are nice.

...

Zim, signing off.

### **Log Entry #111.**

The Homeworld Gems have finally arrived on Earth. And while I don't know how this is going to end, what I do know is that Garnet, Amethyst and Pearl are gonna give 'em a fight. Possibly the biggest fight of their lives.

Obviously I hope Garnet, Amethyst, and Pearl win, but as much as it pains me to say, they could very well lose.

Peridot isn't much of a threat. She's just a technician! Jasper, on the other hand, is the toughest opponent I've ever faced.

If Jasper does beat Garnet, Amethyst, and Pearl, I just hope she goes easy on Steven. He's not a threat to her mission. Well, if she arrived years later, he would be.

I wish I could see him that strong. Will I ever see him again? I don't even know if I'll get that talk with Lapis. Maybe this is how my story ends. Festering in a cell. Absolutely, completely alone.

I don't like being alone with my thoughts. They betray me. That's why I surround myself with people. Garnet, Amethyst, Pearl, Steven, Steven's dad, Steven's friend Connie, they're all so good!

And how could I forget GIR? Oh GIR, my oldest friend, a slave no longer. I know that I treated him like garbage in the past, but I really did try to make up for it in recent years.

If I'm going to be in this cell for the rest of my life, I should start to come to terms with the huge mistakes I've made. I started acting just like my old evil self again! That's really scary, actually! How I was able to convince myself that I was a hero, the greatest hero in the entire universe, while I was using people as shields.

I've decided that if Garnet, Amethyst, and Pearl manage to defeat Jasper, I'll tell them everything. I can't just hide the bad things I've done, like a coward. I'm also going to apologize to Lapis, for being an inconsiderate friend.

I still hate the Irken Empire, and the Gempire, but I can't force Lapis to fight wars that I start. I'm just opening old wounds at that point.

Speaking of wounds, it's time for me to sleep. Irkens need to sleep to recuperate from wounds. If I have another nightmare, then so be it.

...

Zim, signing off.

## **Log Entry #112.**

Right, so, I'm a little out of it. To be entirely honest, I don't know if I'm dreaming or awake. Maybe I never woke up, and I didn't see Ruby for the first time in years, she didn't fuse with Sapphire to become Garnet, and they never beat Jasper.

Wait. No, that's just stupid. If this was a dream, I would be able to take it ANYWHERE I want it to. And I can't. So that actually happened.

That actually HAPPENED! THIS IS REAL LIFE! I was woken up by Sapphire's singing! I had never heard her voice before, in fact I only saw her and Ruby once, when Garnet unfused in Greg's van thirteen years ago.

Garnet had a plan to introduce Steven to Ruby and Sapphire on his sixteenth birthday. We can still do it, Steven said he'll pretend he didn't know.

Aaaa!! STEVEN!! OKAY OKAY OKAY SO I followed the singing to find out who it was. After barely managing to avoid Jasper and Peridot's detection, I found Sapphire and set her free from the force field to search for Ruby.

We found Steven and Ruby in a large hall, and I gave Steven the biggest, tightest hug I've ever given anyone! I missed him so much. SO MUCH! For a little while, I feared that I would never see him, or Garnet again.

Garnet and I love him so much. She's made of love, you know! And her love is STRONGER THAN JASPER! She was able to overpower her while Steven and I rescued the others! We took control of the ship before it crash-landed onto Earth!

Steven saved us using a protective bubble, and Minimoose was also there! Apparently Jasper ripped him apart with her bare hands earlier, but he's somehow okay! I love Minimoose, and his phenomenal cosmic power.

I wish I could end the log entry there, because everything was going so perfectly until one bad thing happened. One really bad thing.

Jasper survived. Of course she did. And so did Lapis. Jasper restrained her before we could reunite. As a twisted last resort, Jasper requested to fuse with Lapis.

I was at first incredulous, I even laughed at how ridiculous Jasper's appeal was. There was no way Lapis could fuse with her! But then I saw her face. And she broke my heart.

Lapis took a deep breath, turned around, and extended her hand to Jasper, forming Malachite. She

absolutely terrified me. However, before she could kill me, Lapis betrayed Jasper. That was Lapis's plan all along. Malachite was the perfect trap.

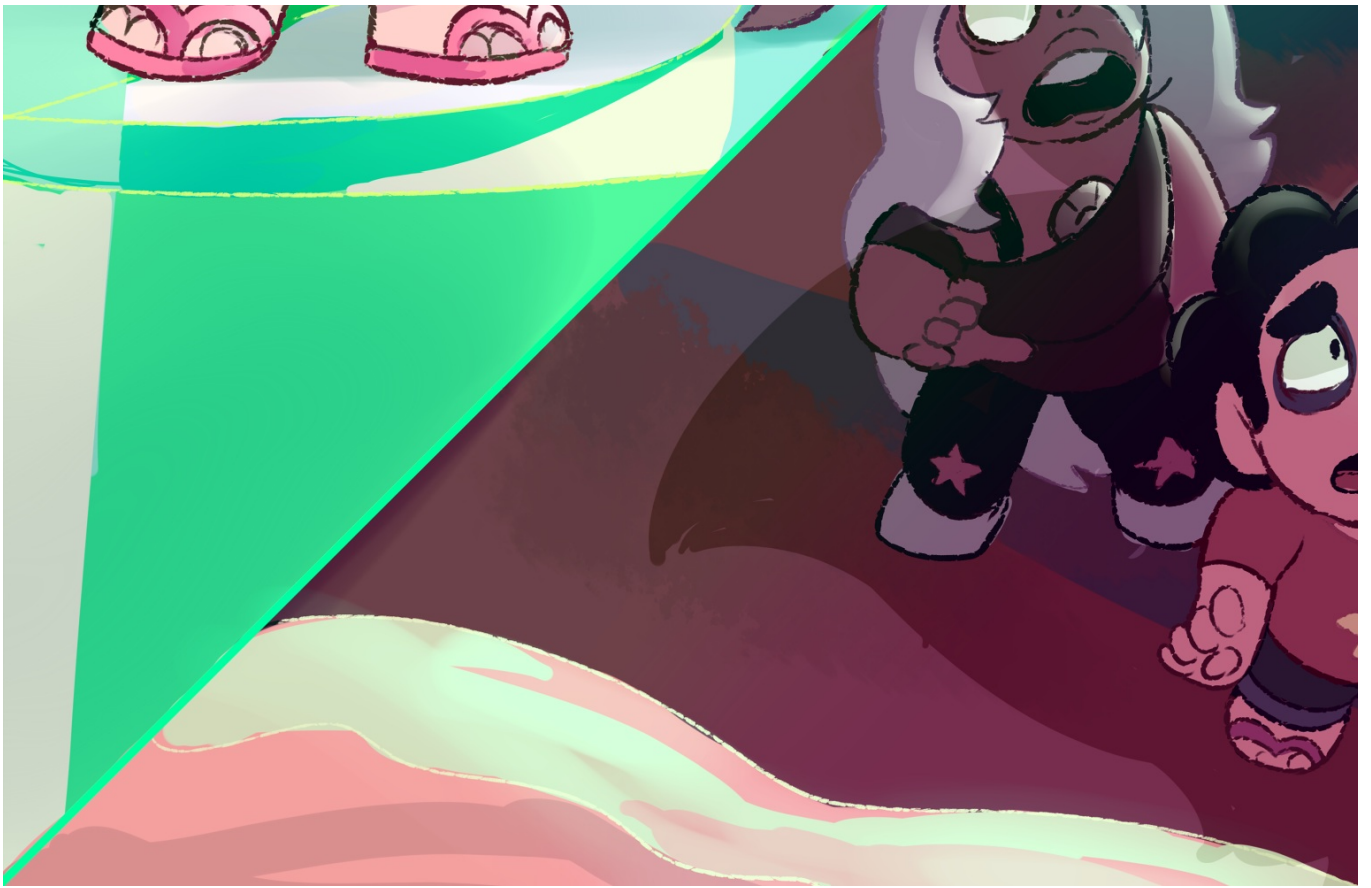
They're at the bottom of the sea now. I'm going to sleep. Not because I'm in physical pain. Oh no, this time it's emotional, and I just plain want to shut off for a while.

...

Zim, signing off.

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## Chapter End Notes

All artwork is done by a friend!

Friend's Ao3 account:

<https://archiveofourown.org/users/EmeraldSeaBug/pseuds/EmeraldSeaBug>

And here's my friend's art blog on Tumblr full of water and honey:

<https://seabeescribbles.tumblr.com/>



## Chapter 28

### Chapter Notes

So, Jailbreak happened! This upcoming arc of the fic has some of my favorite Steven Universe episodes, seasons two and three were when the show really began to shine imo. Also you can expect some original content, like in the latter half of the fanfic's second arc. If you guys haven't read the previous chapter due to all these finals, please leave a comment on that chapter when you get the chance, and on this one! I know I've said this a lot, creators thrive off of feedback :))))

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

### Log Entry #113.

I left to go sleep in the barn after the battle with Jasper was over. I know I ended the previous log entry saying that I would go to sleep, but then I remembered just how long I've been away for, and I stayed awake all night.

What was I going to say to the Crystal Gems? They didn't talk to me about how I flew away with Lapis. Amethyst was screaming in excitement that they won. She gave me a hug, so I don't think she's too mad at me. Steven was telling Greg everything, including the fact that Jasper thinks Steven is his own mother, Rose Quartz. I don't think I've seen Greg that scared since he saw me for the first time. I would've panicked as well, under normal circumstances, but I was too tired to talk about what happened.

It felt strange being all by myself in the barn. For years I talked to my mirror, which was actually Lapis Lazuli. Now she's gone, trapped in the ocean as that abomination Malachite.

And as for GIR, well I don't see him anywhere. He's not in the cardboard box I placed him in. I don't know how much time it'll take for him to, you know, be back to normal and stop going crazy and stuff every time he gets turned back on. Did the Gems turn him back on while I was away? What if he had to be destroyed???

I need to ask Garnet to bring me up to speed on matters. Pearl and I will probably talk about Lapis, how I shouldn't have given up everything I've built over the last decade just to stay with her. Actually, no, I don't want to do that. Not yet. My new plan is to talk to Steven first, then I'll talk to Garnet and Pearl.

...

Zim, signing off.

### **Log Entry #114.**

Steven and I talked for a long time atop the Brooding Hill, after I scared off that annoying Ronaldo human. I know I swore to protect all humans, but he's just the worst kind of human, hopefully there aren't other humans like him.

Anyway, I went to the Brooding Hill to ask Steven what happened while I was away, but then I wondered "why is Steven atop Brooding Hill?" People only go there to brood, that's why it's named Brooding Hill, after all.

The dear lad looked at me sadly, and I asked what was wrong. Well, it turns out that I'm not the only one avoiding someone. Steven doesn't want to tell Connie about his most recent adventure. She's kept trying to call him all day! He thinks he needs to keep Connie away to keep her safe, but he doesn't need to do that! He thinks he needs to shut EVERYONE out, for good, but he can't do that to himself. It's a stupid decision he would instantly regret, and I told him as much!

I talked about how much I miss Lapis and GIR, how I wish they were still with me. Then I think I started talking AT Steven, and not talking TO him. He asked to be alone, so I begrudgingly left him alone.

Am I falling into a rut? Being an emotional mess in the aftermath of a battle is nothing new for me, but I used to be a lot better at popping Steven's bubble! Now he doesn't want me to be there for him. Fine, if he's not going to talk to his friend Connie, I'm going to talk to Garnet and Pearl. We can't be divided.

...

Zim, signing off.

## **Log Entry #115.**

Garnet, Amethyst, and Pearl were cleaning up debris when I went to go talk to them. Steven sat in on our debate about what to do with the remains of the hand ship.

Garnet and I were in agreement that we can't close off the Crystal Temple. Steven needs to see his father and his friends. Why does he have to be so difficult? We're all just trying to do what's best for him! He can't avoid Connie forever.

He couldn't even avoid Connie for a few minutes! She came right up the steps and he sneaked out the window as Pearl talked to her.

I can't believe how cowardly Steven was acting! He had better talk to Connie, or I'm going to drag him to his house and MAKE him talk. If he really doesn't want to be her friend anymore, then he has to say it to her face, but I know for a fact that he still wants to be friends with her. I just know it!

After Connie, I finally talked to the Crystal Gems. They said they were glad to have me back. I'm just glad Pearl isn't upset at me. Garnet brought me up to speed on what's happened since I was away.

Steven and Pearl built a spaceship! There were Watermelon Stevens, and flask robonoids, and STEVONNIE! STEVEN AND CONNIE FUSED! Those two had BETTER reunite, because I NEED to see that fusion!

What I'm less happy about is the fact that GIR is roaming the continent because Pearl had even less success fixing him than I did! Poor Minimoose is nubless now!! HIS NUBS OF DOOM!!! I'm going to ask Pearl to pour me a cup of tea. Tea relaxes me, you see.

...

Zim, signing off.

## **Log Entry #116.**

Steven made me a #1 Irken mug while I was away with Lapis. It's a nice mug, I like it a lot. Oh, he and Connie made up, just as I predicted! I'll get to see them fuse in the near future! That's absolutely marvelous.

... Okay I've been putting off talking about this. Garnet, Amethyst, Pearl and I nearly killed Steven. We didn't know it was Steven, of course, not when we saw the Yellow Diamond distress flare being fired into the dark night sky.

How were we supposed to know that Peridot's escape pod had anyone other than Peridot inside, let alone Steven? We thought we finally had her, and we attacked that pod with everything we had. I nearly skewered him with my PAK legs!

It's a good thing Jenny stopped us and explained the situation before Garnet could land the finishing blow. She broke the pod open and stated how disappointed she was in him, while I was disappointed in myself for not seeing his silhouette sooner.

I would've stood up for Steven, but the Cool Kids did it for me. We took selfies together! I haven't taken a selfie with the Cool Kids in years.

Steven has gone through a lot and needed a break. The Gems were too tough on him. I need to be tougher on myself, for Steven. He shouldn't have to worry about the Homeworld Gems. I'm going to get GIR back, and I'm going to hunt Peridot down.

Most importantly, I'm going to come up with a way to separate Malachite. I've come to terms with the fact that Lapis sacrificed herself to ensure my safety. But what if she loses herself to the fusion, and Malachite goes on a rampage like Sugilite did?! I can't let that happen, I just can't.

...

Zim, signing off.

---



## Chapter End Notes

All artwork is done by a friend!

Friend's Ao3 account:

<https://archiveofourown.org/users/EmeraldSeaBug/pseuds/EmeraldSeaBug>

And here's my friend's art blog on Tumblr full of water and honey:

<https://seabeescribbles.tumblr.com/>

## Chapter 29

### Chapter Notes

So! I'm back and I hope you enjoyed the holidays! Here you go, enjoy the latest chapter.

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

### Log Entry #117.

Ben Tennyson came by earlier. Him and a Revonnahgander named Rook. They didn't come by just to say hello, oh no, they were on business. Plumber business.

When I say plumber business, I don't mean traditional plumbing. That just would be silly. The Plumbers are an intergalactic law organization. I didn't know about them until yesterday, but apparently they're a pretty big deal.

Steven was so happy to see his hero again. The Crystal Gems brought Ben's partner Rook up to speed. I didn't really know what to think. We have new allies, so that's good. What's bad is that I wanna be the star of the show! It's selfish, I know, but nobody's gonna bubble Peridot except for me! She's my nemesis now. I privately told Ben and Rook I appreciate their offer to help but I need to fix the messes I created. If they didn't believe me when I told them I could take care of Peridot all on my own, then I would show them in a one on one match. Well, it's not exactly one on one in Ben's case.

Don't get me wrong, I still like Ben. He's a good kid. Rook, on the other hand, is a bit dry. It's funny when he freaks out. He had eyes like saucers when he realized who I was. Not just any other Irken, but the Irken all other Irgens despise, Zim! I've been thought to be dead for a very long time. Seeing me is like... seeing a ghost.

Ben can transform into a ghost y'know. Well, not an actual ghost, but a ghost-like alien named Ghostfreak. It's a fitting name, I must say. He got the best of me as Ghostfreak in a sparring session, and as a werewolf-like alien named Blitzwolfer, but I won against his mummy-like alien named Snare-oh by tying him up in a web of his own bandages. Are the names a little ridiculous? Oh more than a little, but Ben is the strongest fighter in the UNIVERSE!

Steven was so excited to watch us go out in a few rounds. Seeing Steven happy makes me happy. I'm also relieved none of Ben's rogues gallery followed Ben to Beach City. It would've been fun to

fight the bad guys but I don't have much time for fun these days.

I can have fun when Peridot is bubbled, when GIR is back to normal, and when Lapis is free again. Then I'll have my fun. Oh the fun I'll have with Lapis. Until then, it's time to be serious. Not like how Steven was serious for all of a day, I mean actually serious. Well, time to go. I've got a GIR to find.

...

Zim, signing off.

### **Log Entry #118.**

Nothing. I spent hours searching for GIR, Garnet spent an even longer amount of time searching for signs of Lapis, and we've both found absolutely nothing! It's only the first day, we'll find them eventually. Doesn't make it any less frustrating, though. I broke a stress ball.

GIR hasn't hurt anyone. If he had, then I would've known about it. I still don't know how he's been so hard to track down.

I haven't seen him in so long. When I first arrived on Earth, I couldn't imagine ever missing him. He was a tool and nothing more. When I do find him, I'm going to apologize.

I apologized to Garnet, Amethyst, and Pearl, for my villainous ways in the past. But not to GIR. I just assumed I didn't have to apologize for constantly yelling at him, because he probably wouldn't understand me anyway. I guess I was wrong about that too. Another mistake that I need to correct.

Steven and Connie tried telling me something about love letters when I came back home, but I really didn't care. I could at least pretend to care. I don't want the kids to think I'm a jerk. I want them to tell me things, I really do, but this really isn't the time. I've got lots of important things to do!

I haven't even had time to catch up on Camp Pining Hearts! At least I recorded the entire series. I promised to myself that I wouldn't watch another episode until Lapis was back in the barn safe and sound. It's going to be a very fun binge watch.



...

Zim, signing off.

### **Log Entry #119.**

Amethyst regenerated today, and she took four hours rather than four minutes like she usually does. She looks different. Not too different, but different nonetheless. I like it.

I was busy hunting Peridot while Garnet, Amethyst, Minimoose, and Steven were chasing after a monster that was loose in the Temple. They had success, while I had none. Minimoose tells me that Amethyst had character development. That's nice. I'm very happy for her.

Pearl offered to join me in my hunt, but like I said, I wanna be the one to bubble Peridot. After everything she did to Lapis and I!

Before I went on my hunt, Steven asked me to take an online personality quiz. It tells you what character you are from "Crying Breakfast Friends." Apparently I'm Miserable Muffin. I wonder what GIR would be. Wait, I know! He would be a waffle!

Yes, GIR would be a waffle for sure. I should give this "Crying Breakfast Friends" a watch. GIR would like that a lot, he's happy whenever I'm happy, and I haven't been truly happy in quite a while. I can pretend to be, so that Steven isn't concerned, but I haven't slept in ages and I'm afraid the nightmares will come back if I do. Oh those nightmares. It figures that my greatest enemy would be my own mind.

Now I wish I was with Garnet, Amethyst, and Steven chasing after the monster. At least I would've been able to punch something, and pretend it was Peridot. Instead I'm only punching the air, and that's not fun at all. It's pretty sad and pathetic, actually. Well whatever.

...

Zim, signing off.

## **Log Entry #120.**

Connie has trained with Pearl to become a sword fighter. The girl is a more skilled sword fighter than I could have possibly imagined! She's so good that it's scary. A little too scary. Scary enough that Steven asked me to intervene, before Connie completely lost herself.

I had the perfect solution of course. If Connie and Pearl were going to sing about doing it for him, I was going to train the boy!

As it turns out, I was making the same mistake that Pearl made. I thought that there was nothing wrong with training Steven at that level, because I had been trained at his age. I thought that I could train him better than my Irken instructors trained me! I was wrong.

Steven has a bright future ahead of him, but I shouldn't have tried to rush things. I don't know what was worse, the electro-conductivity test or the test with the bear. And Connie. Poor Connie. She's only human! Humans are impressive, to be sure, but they're not ready for that level of training. Especially human children.

Pearl and I talked about it. After the kids teamed up to fight us. We beat them, of course. Our experience outranked them. I wasn't expecting Pearl to have an outburst like the one she had, that's something I would expect from a child, but the children are admittedly a lot more emotionally mature than we are.

At least it was Pearl who had the emotional outburst, and not me. That would've been embarrassing. She mixed up Steven and Rose's names. I don't know much about Rose Quartz, I never knew her. It pains me to see Pearl so fixated on Rose Quartz after all these years.

So we talked about it. After a brief conversation, she calmed down and we both came around to their viewpoint. No one needs to be the strongest, no one needs to fight alone on someone's behalf, not when we can be a team! Maybe I don't need to be the one to bubble Peridot. As long as I get to deck her in the face.

...

Zim, signing off.





## Chapter End Notes

This chapter's art is done by the amazing Croxovergoddess!  
The link to her Tumblr: <https://croxovergoddess.tumblr.com/>

## Chapter 30

### Chapter Notes

Peridot, Stevonnie and Lapis are all in THIS CHAPTER!! And Ronaldo, I guess.

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

#### **Log Entry #121.**

It's been a while since I've fought a Gem monster. And I've never fought one that resembles a giant crab. Y'know, I still can't believe some humans actually like eating crabs. At first I thought it was only Amethyst and GIR that enjoyed eating crabs, but no! Apparently they're considered a delicacy on Earth! Oh those humans.

Why can't they all be like Connie? She's such a sensible young girl! Unlike that idiot Ronaldo. He was filming the fight against the Gem monster, and then he put it in his stupid documentary, if you can even call it that. "Rising Tides, Crashing Skies" is slander and Ronaldo knows it. That impudent brat.

He accused the Crystal Gems of being destroyers, a danger to Beach City. Steven stressed to him that we Crystal Gems protect everyone. It's true that I attempted to conquer Earth so that the Tallest could rule it, and the Gems nearly destroyed it, but that's in the past! We've made up for it.

Ronaldo realized the error of his ways and begged us to stay, but only because he wants to keep the city weird. Why else would he have that stupid blog? It's not like he's really exposing any truth. Hey kid! Turn on the news! Everybody knows aliens exist! Ben Tennyson is known all over the world as a hero that can transform into different aliens. Like, a thousand!

This is a world of heroes. Super-powered sisters, robotic superheroines, there are even superheroes with no powers! Not Ronaldo, though. Never Ronaldo. He's a stupid kid. That being said, if he's ever in danger, I'll still protect him. That's what heroes do. Okay, I've left a dislike on Ronaldo's horrible TubeTube video, time to help Steven fold his laundry!

...

Zim, signing off.

## Log Entry #122.

I like doing housework. I don't know why, I just do. Pearl understands, we understand each other. It's why the two of us brought an end to Steven's chore wheel idea.

If all I did today was fold clothes, I wouldn't be writing this log entry. I only write log entries when important stuff happens. Well we finally tracked down Peridot!

She was in the Prime Kindergarten. Amethyst told me about it, of course. It's the site of her creation. But I had never seen it before. The facility was haunting. Abandoned and disabled injectors as far as the eye could see, threatening the entire planet.

That's why Garnet really gathered us together. To track down Peridot and also do help Steven fold laundry. Pearl was nervous about bringing Steven along on the mission, but like Garnet said, Peridot's got nothing we can't handle. Right?

Notice how I said we tracked Peridot down, not that we actually caught her. Yeah, she may not be as strong as Jasper, but she's certainly wily. We had her cornered at one point. We chased her to a wall and she just ran up the wall! Then she was hit by a falling injector, you'd think that would poof her but nope! She turned her fingers into helicopter-blades so that she could fly away. I'm actually really impressed, wow.

Oh and I got shot in the face. Yeah, I got SHOT IN THE FACE. I CHASED HER DOWN WITH MY PAK LEGS, I ALMOST HAD HER, AND I GOT SHOT IN THE FACE. I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW SHE COULD DO THAT WITH HER FINGERS, I THOUGHT SHE ONLY HAD THE WEIRD TUNING FORK THINGY!!!!!!

It's a good thing Pearl was there to catch me, because I don't think I could've survived that fall. Her and Amethyst were the ones who pursued Peridot in the Kindergarten with me, Garnet and Steven stayed behind for reasons. We may not have captured Peridot, but I can't be too hard on myself. Then I would be making the same mistake that Steven and Connie made. That whole "I have to be the one to do it" mindset wasn't healthy and I'm not going to lose myself to my quest for vengeance. I've got it handled.

...

Zim, signing off.

### **Log Entry #123.**

The kids and I were organizing Greg's old albums in the back of his van, he put a song on, Steven and Connie started dancing to it and they fused into Stevonnie! I'm SO proud of them.

Apparently Greg didn't know? Which is... odd. I had just assumed Steven would've told Greg. Connie hasn't told her parents that she's been dealing with Gems and magic. She probably should. I won't pester her about doing it, though.

Steven and Connie's fusion prompted Greg to tell a story about his experience with Gem fusion. After they unfused, the kids and I sat down in the van, Greg put in an old VCR which showed him singing a duet with Rose. Er, it was supposed to be a duet before Pearl made it a fusion song mid-performance. I think I saw a bit of a love triangle going on there. Greg, Rose, and Pearl. I knew Pearl loved Rose, I just didn't think it was in THAT way. There was Camp Pining Hearts energy, and Camp Pining Hearts energy is very powerful.

Anyway, Greg and Rose weren't able to fuse, but they certainly tried. It didn't really matter if they couldn't fuse. Fusion is the ultimate connection between Gems, yes, but Greg and Rose danced anyway! Even if fusion didn't work, they made their RELATIONSHIP work. They talked to each other.

That's beautiful. Maybe I'll get a relationship like that one day. I know that Irkens aren't SUPPOSED to love people in that way, but Irkens aren't supposed to love ANYTHING other than galactic conquest, snacks, and the suffering of our enemies. I love lots of things, always have, so maybe one day I'll find somebody to love in that way. Until that fateful day comes, IF that day ever comes, Camp Pining Hearts will always be there for me.

...

Zim, signing off.

## Log Entry #124.

I SAW LAPIS. I DIDN'T JUST SEE HER, OH NO, I ACTUALLY TALKED TO HER! I MISSED HER SO MUCH, OH MY STARS!!

It's a good thing I stopped by to say hello when I did, because if I hadn't, then I wouldn't have even known Steven could communicate with Gems through his dreams!! That kid has so many unique abilities, it's insane!!!!

After Steven dozed off again, I used a device I had made years ago, to go into his mind. I honestly don't remember why I built the thing. Not that it matters. THE ONLY THING THAT MATTERS is that I talked to Lapis, and she's still in control.

Do I wish that Lapis was here with me? Yes, of course I do, but I got to shoot Jasper in the FACE!! HAHA! YES!!!!

I offered to help Lapis, but she bravely denied my offer, refusing to tell me where Malachite is. Malachite then screamed at Steven and I to leave, so we did.

I need to find where Malachite is, and then separate her into Lapis and Jasper. Lapis doesn't actually like Jasper, she hates her! Why wouldn't she? Jasper is terrible, and Malachite only exists to keep Steven and I safe from her grasp. For right now, I'm going to take it easy.

Oh, before I end this log entry, I wanna mention that Steven dreamed the Crystal Gems were in a black and white sitcom where everyone was human, and I was the cool uncle character. Isn't that adorable?

...

Zim, signing off.

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## Chapter End Notes

All artwork is done by my friends!

Friend's Ao3 account:

<https://archiveofourown.org/users/Cookiemonster2000/pseuds/Cookiemonster2000>

Friend's Invader Zim sideblog: <https://vampirepiggyhunterdefensesquad.tumblr.com/>

And here's my friend's Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/thecookieshoparts/>

## Chapter 31

### Chapter Notes

Howdy! Just letting y'all know that I'm going to be going on another hiatus, it won't be nearly as long as the last one but I need some time to recharge, y'know? By the time I come back, all the chapters posted so far will have accompanying art added. So you have that to look forward to!

### Log Entry #125.

Peridot has gone too far this time. She interrupted Steven's favorite TV show, Crying Breakfast Friends!

Everyone caught Peridot's broadcast, her message to Yellow Diamond was on all frequencies. The only way Peridot could produce a message that powerful was by using the Communication Hub.

I hadn't been to the hub since Sugilite damaged it during her rampage, and this time we used Lion since Sugilite broke the Warp Pad. Peridot built a functioning signal tower out of it's ruins. That's impressive! Very impressive. We had to destroy it, of course. Normally I would volunteer, I'm an unstoppable death machine, you know. Steven suggested that Amethyst fuse with Garnet again. I have to say, I'm glad Garnet shot down the idea, because Sugilite is horrible.

Garnet opted to fuse with Pearl instead. They did their little dance and Sardonyx was formed. She's thankfully a lot less volatile than Sugilite. That's not to say she's less powerful than Sugilite, far from it! She disassembled the key components of the Communication Hub, but she did it a lot more elegantly than Sugilite would have. That war hammer of hers is really cool. In fact, I think I want a war hammer of my own!

When's the last time I built something? Probably Minimoose, now that I think about it. Maybe I could build the Crystal Gems new weapons. That would be neat.

Yes, after I build a war hammer for myself, I'll build new and improved weapons for the Crystal Gems. They'll appreciate that a lot. I saw Amethyst moping, she must be sad that she didn't get to fuse with Garnet. I think I'll build her weapon first. An even better version of her whip, which is pretty cool as it is. I'm such a nice guy like that!

Haha, yes. Now that our work is done, I think I'm going to try watching the sequel series to Floopsy Bloops Shmoopsy, Floopsy STILL Bloops Shmoopsy. I've been meaning to get around to it.

...

Zim, singing off.

### **Log Entry #126.**

Now PEARL has gone too far! This is madness! Insanity, even! I knew she liked being fused with Garnet, but pretending to be Peridot and rebuilding the communication hub over and over again? Garnet is right, those aren't victories. How can they be???

I'm surprised that Amethyst rushed to defend Pearl. Would she have tricked Garnet into fusing? I hope not! Pearl was wasting our time while Peridot is still out there, doing the things that Peridot does! Horrible things. Garnet told me about the fusion experiments her and Steven encountered in the Kindergarten.

I understand wanting to feel powerful, but the mission comes first. Always. Pearl hit us with distractions that kept us from our mission, for her own selfish needs. Now that's just sad.

Garnet and Pearl aren't going to be fusing for a while. Sugilite took out the Communication Hub with one punch. I don't even think Garnet and Pearl are going to talk for a while. Unfortunately, things don't work out the way they do in the cartoons Steven watches. I wish they did, though. Oh, that reminds me, today I learned that Floopsy Still Bloops Shmoopsy crossed over with Crying Breakfast Friends!

I think Garnet and Pearl need space away from each other. I don't know when Garnet and Pearl are going to patch things up, but what I do know is that I'm not going to be the middle friend between them. I'm just going to look for Peridot, and if Pearl wants to join me, well that's just fine but I'm not going to let her rant at me about Garnet. I'm not having any of it!!

...

Zim, signing off.

### **Log Entry #126.**

Okay NOW we're talking. Pearl and I found Peridot, AND we found GIR, AND we teamed up with Peridot to fight GIR who went crazy and stuff, for like the DOZENTH TIME. YEAH.

On the outskirts of Beach City, Pearl and I were looking for Peridot. We had a painfully awkward conversation. Yes, I know I promised myself that I wouldn't have any of it, but I can't help it! I'm too weak. Please.

I'll talk about how the conversation went some other time, that's not important right now. What IS important is that we split up to look for Peridot and I found GIR instead. I couldn't believe my eyes! He ran up to me and gave me a great big hug. Before I could tell Pearl, she came to me telling me a crazy story about how she found Peridot hiding in the bushes, scared out of her mind. Then I looked at GIR, and realized why.

I don't know if he tricked me, or if he can only be his old happy-go-lucky self again for a few brief moments. Either way, he gave us trouble. He gave Peridot trouble as well, after all, she was a threat to the mission! Whatever that mission is. Does he even know anymore?

So Pearl and I were forced to team up with Peridot. The terrifying renegade and the unstoppable death machine teaming up with the Homeworld Gem technician. It's been ages since I fought alongside a green person, and this is the first time I've fought alongside a green person who didn't end up dying.

Peridot held her own. In fact, she even knocked GIR out cold. Of course, that was thanks to me distracting him. I've always been good at getting under the skin of my enemies. Wait a minute, GIR doesn't have skin. Well you know what I mean, moving on.

After GIR was back in my hands, Peridot shot Pearl in the face and flew away, taunting her. As I watched her fly away, I couldn't help but think that Peridot is a lot like an Irken. Not like me, but then again, nobody does it like me!

...

Zim, signing off.

### **Log Entry #127.**

I'm happy GIR is here with me, even if he's not permanently back to his old self again. Maybe if Pearl and I work on him together, we can discover the secret to bringing back the old GIR. And then we can watch the Floopsy Still Bloops Shmoopsy / Crying Breakfast Friends crossover event with Steven and Amethyst!

Speaking of Steven, though, I didn't know he went on a road trip with Greg and Garnet! Pearl didn't tell me that. I don't know what happened on that road trip, but Garnet is willing to speak to Pearl again, even if it's only in the way that Garnet spoke to her. "Not now." That's all she said. Really, that's it. A Gem of few words. Or rather, Sapphire is a Gem of few words. Ruby is a whole other story.

During that conversation Pearl and I had, I made the mistake of comparing Garnet to Rose. She clarified she doesn't care for Garnet in a romantic way, basically admitting my suspicions about her relationship to Steven's mother. Even so, she clearly cares for Garnet as a friend, for Ruby and Sapphire, for their relationship. I wish I could schedule her patching things up with Garnet, but this is improvement and progress. I'm pretty sure.

...

Zim, signing off.

## Chapter 32

### Chapter Notes

I'm back from my hiatus! I think you guys are really going to like these new chapters, the Peridot redemption arc is most people's favorite part of the show, my friends who have watched the show say this is one of their favorite parts for sure. If you read the previous chapters, you may notice I've edited them. Art has been put in some of the chapters and there are even some additional scenes like for example Ben actually sparring with Zim when he shows up in chapter 29. Anyways, I really hope you guys enjoy reading this chapter. It's good to be back!!!!

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

### Log Entry #129.

Garnet and Pearl have made up! Not because Pearl caught Peridot in order to gain Garnet's trust (she didn't catch Peridot) but because Peridot trapped us in the Ancient Gem Colony Ship, forcing them to consult with each other. So thanks Peridot. I GUESS.

It's not like Peridot is a Crystal Gem now because she helped us a whopping two times. She helped us intentionally one time, and this time she unintentionally helped us by trapping Garnet and Pearl in a small room as the walls closed in on each other. Amethyst jammed the gear system using her whip, which stopped the walls from moving. At least until her whip snapped, and then the gear system continued to work. Amethyst, Steven and I were freaking out, understandably so, but the fusion Sardonyx jumped up having drilled her way out of the room! Garnet and Pearl's conflict found resolution at just the right time!

It's sad that Pearl craves being part of a stable relationship so badly that she would trick Garnet into forming Sardonyx. However, Garnet revealed that SHE looks to HER! Wow! Garnet wants her to be strong, just like we all do. That's VERY inspiring!

And as for Peridot? Well as I alluded to earlier, our first attempt to capture her was unsuccessful, partly because of Pearl. Okay it was mostly because of Pearl but she did find a way to track Peridot by wiring her escape pod to our Warp Pad. The device lights up every time Peridot uses it, which reveals her destination. We're going to be able to catch her eventually, and that suits us just fine. It's just like Garnet said, we've gone a step forward.

You see, Peridot started to fly away from the ship after we cornered her, but I pounced on her like a Snarl Beast and the others grabbed on to me, so Peridot was forced to eject her foot. It was a foot

joke! Yes I know that explaining a joke supposedly “kills it” and I simply don’t care! Garnet and I are the undeniable masters of comedy, nobody can compare. Our jokes can never die!!!

...

Zim, signing off.

### **Log Entry #130.**

I visited the hospital for the first time EVER today! You'd think that this would be my thousandth visit, given how many injuries I've survived over the years! BUT NO! This was my first visit. And it was absolutely HORRIFYING. Not because of some gruesome injury. I wasn't injured, the kids weren't injured, NOBODY was injured but we ALMOST were by some ABOMINATIONS.

I'm getting ahead of myself, why do I ALWAYS do that??? Let me start from the beginning. Pearl was off doing something else, I don't know what it was, so I decided to train Steven and Connie today. It was a lot of fun! Connie got a little overexcited and almost cut Minimoose in half, but he's fine.

Lion carried us to Connie’s house after the training was over. Steven offered his mother’s sword to Connie so she can practice at home, which I thought was very nice and sweet. Lion wandered off while I was still on his back.

I thought Steven would simply walk Connie to her house but Connie's mom came home and she ended up taking Rose's sword away so THEN we needed to sneak into the hospital she works at to recover it!!!! We teleported to the hospital on Lion's back and then left him behind giving him some Lion Lickers to keep him in place.

The lights were all turned off when we entered the hospital, which was ominous. We heard growling as well, doubly ominous. So I decided it was time to split up! Minimoose and I would investigate the mysterious growling noises while Steven and Connie could grab the sword. Also Steven and Connie were holding hands and I didn't want to be a third wheel.

I spotted a humanoid figure and at first I assumed it was a patient. A horribly disfigured, disgusting, horrible one. BUT THEN I REALIZED THE PATIENT WASN'T SIMPLY UGLY. I STARTED TO FREEZE AS HORROR LOOKED ME RIGHT BETWEEN THE EYES. I WAS



## PARALYZED!

It's a good thing there was only a 25% chance that I would be fully paralyzed, and I was able to get away safely. I eventually ran into Steven who summoned his bubble shield. There was another mutant that began ramming against the bubble while Connie argued with her mom. I assured Dr. Maheswaran that Steven and Connie's explanations were true, they really do know how to use swords because Pearl and I taught them everything we know! And we're responsible adults! Okay maybe I'm not RESPONSIBLE but I am an adult!

Connie got tired of arguing with her mom and told Steven to stop using the bubble shield, so that she could SHOW her mom instead of TELLING her. And boy did Connie show her! Connie and Steven were VICTORIOUS! Dr. Maheswaran stared at them in shock, I on the other hand was filled with PRIDE.

Outside the hospital Steven explained to Connie's mother what the mutants were. I was unaware of the existence of Gem mutants until today, so it was new information to me as well. You know what else is new information to me? Dr. Maheswaran is DOUG'S WIFE. CONNIE IS DOUG'S DAUGHTER. YEAH DOUG. REMEMBER DOUG? THE SECURITY GUARD HUMAN?? YEAH HIM.

Connie apologized to her mom for lying, Dr. Maheswaran apologized to her daughter for being too controlling, she wants more feedback in the future and Connie agreed not to lie anymore. They hugged. Steven didn't have a mom to hug so I awkwardly hugged him. Minimoose was just... floating there I guess. And Lion? Lion is a good boy.

...

Zim, signing off.

## Log Entry #131.

Another year another Beach-a-Palooza. I first referenced Beach-a-Palooza in a log entry when Steven performed with Pearl, Amethyst, and Garnet last year but I've actually attended them for years now. How many years has it been? Ten? Maybe more?

One year GIR reenacted the story of how we became Crystal Gems, in his own GIR way. There

were puppets involved. I made the puppets, because the puppets GIR originally made were monstrosities that should never be seen by human eyes. I destroyed them all, for humanity's sake. GIR still thinks that raccoons destroyed them in the nighttime, and that's what he'll continue to think for all time.

GIR asked me to perform with him at a Beach-a-Palooza after seeing Steven and the Crystal Gems perform at last year's event. I don't know if he was asking to start a band or if he had something else in mind, but I genuinely do want to perform with him at next year's Beach-a-Palooza. I miss GIR. I miss him a lot.

This year Steven performed another song, "Haven't You Noticed (I'm a Star)". He didn't just perform, he was the final act! The mystery guest! I'm so proud of him!! That's really all I wanted to write this log entry, I'm proud of Steven. Maybe I can perform with GIR AND Steven at next year's Beach-a-Palooza. THAT would be neat!

Steven and I went to the Big Donut with Sadie afterwards. Apparently Sadie was going to perform but there was a whole lot of drama involving Sadie and her mom so Steven sang Sadie's song in her place. He was even wearing her outfit!

Sadie and her mom talked to each other while Steven was singing, everything's fine. Steven and I both have parental issues, in a way. As a smeeet I craved the love and approval of tall distant figures, and Steven has many space moms while simultaneously having no mom, and he's his own mom. At least he has a dad who loves him, who cares a lot about him. He also has me! Good uncle Zim who gives good advice.

...

Zim, signing off.

### **Log Entry #132.**

A lot has happened tonight and I will NOT get ahead of myself like I always do, so I will start from the very beginning. Peridot kidnapped Steven!! The fiend!! She's done a lot of heinous things in her day, but nothing as heinous as kidnapping a CHILD for her nefarious purposes. I didn't know what her purposes WERE exactly, but I wanted to deck her in the face more than I EVER had before. AND I WANTED TO DECK HER SINCE THE MOMENT I LAID EYES ON HER. GUESS WHAT?? I FINALLY DID IT!!! I DECKED HER!!

The fight was shorter than I'd hoped but we poofed Peridot and Steven was okay, that was all that mattered. When she was poofed, all her limbs fell to the ground. It was horrible to see. I may have taken them but NOT because a new genius plan to study Peridot's limb enhancers and build my own has wormed it's way inside my subconscious. Of COURSE not! I'm disgusted by limb enhancers. In fact, I hate them sooo much that I'm going to build my own vastly superior limb enhancers JUST TO PROVE THAT I CAN!! Not because I want to USE them, that would be RIDICULOUS!!!

Steven told Garnet that Peridot was trying to say something really important, but Garnet easily dismissed that as desperate lies. Before Peridot was poofed, she tried to warn us about some impending doom, something that only she knows about. It's why we "need her." Steven was concerned, but I was just glad the Peridot saga was finally over.

At least I thought it was over. I went to say goodnight to Steven but right before I went to bed he asked if I thought Peridot really WAS trying to tell us something. I said "well anything is POSSIBLE but it's not probable. It's more PROBABLE that Peridot was lying. It's more PROBABLE that she was desperate, and would've said anything to get out of the situation that she was in. What makes you think you could ever trust her anyway?"

He said "well YOU used to be a lot like Peridot, and the Gems trusted you..." I wanted to argue that. I REALLY wanted to argue that, but I couldn't. I didn't realize how familiar Peridot was until Steven pointed it out, and the realization hit me like a ton of bricks. Peridot isn't just a lot like an Irken, she's a lot like ME. Or more accurately, how I used to be. I lied to the Crystal Gems a lot, but I also told the truth when I was desperate. So you know what I said? I said "then let's see if she can earn our trust." like a complete MORON.

Steven and I entered Rose's room, with Minimoose in tow. We asked to talk to Peridot but the room was only able to show us the last thing she said before she was poofed. That was frustrating. So frustrating, in fact, that I was actually about to walk out of the room. That's what I should've done. I also should've told Steven to go to bed. Instead he asked the room to show him an entrance to the Burning Room and then we searched for Peridot's bubble.

We eventually found it. I told Steven before popping Peridot's bubble that if she really did lie to get out of the fight, then I would bubble her a second time. When Peridot regenerated, I prepared myself for the worst. But I was amazed how cute she is without her limb enhancers! Allow me to clarify, when I say she's cute I don't mean that in the same way a boy on Camping Pining Hearts will call a girl on Camp Pining Hearts cute!! I mean that in a MOCKING WAY!!! I teased her about her height and then she pointed out that we're the EXACT same height without her extended limbs. She also started slapping me repeatedly. Can you BELIEVE THE GALL??

Steven explained to Peridot that we freed her because we wanted to know what she was trying to say at the Galaxy Warp, and she revealed to us the existence of a Cluster. Not the empire made up of droids, something else entirely. Something even worse, something that's going to cause the worst extinction event in the history of planet Earth!!!!

Peridot ran away before I could ask her for more information and I used my PAK legs to chase her, but unfortunately for her she emerged from the Temple gate into the house before I could catch her. And the Gems were in the kitchen. Yeah, oops.

Now Peridot has been cornered into the bathroom. Steven and I have explained to the Gems that we freed her so we could know what made her so scared. The Cluster. Whatever the Cluster is, it's something new because Garnet, Amethyst, and Pearl have no idea what that is. If she has valuable information, then she's going to have to live in the bathroom for the time being. She tried flushing herself down the toilet but that didn't work. It would be pretty fun though, right? Having a toilet elevator? I dunno, I think it would be neat. What I don't find neat is Peridot living in Steven's bathroom while he has to go to the bathroom in the ocean like some kind of animal!

It's currently the break of dawn. I told Steven to go to sleep while Garnet, Amethyst, Pearl and I discussed how to get Peridot to talk. Pearl doubts we'll get her to come out of the bathroom, and Amethyst doesn't think she'll talk to us at all. Whatever this Cluster is, we all agree it's very important. I think I know how to get her to talk. I'm going to have a conversation with her. Not because I want to be her friend, but because I want there to be some understanding, and then maybe she'll reluctantly help me save the Earth. That shouldn't be too hard, right?

Well, I don't think she would like a defective Irken rebelling against his leaders. Unless she doesn't know that. Yeah, if she thinks I'm still evil just like her, then maybe she would be more willing to tell me about the Cluster! Invader Zim is BACK, BABY!!

...

Zim, signing off.

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All artwork is done by a friend!

Friend's Ao3 account:

<https://archiveofourown.org/users/EmeraldSeaBug/pseuds/EmeraldSeaBug>

And here's my friend's art blog on Tumblr full of water and honey:

<https://seabeescribbles.tumblr.com/>

## Chapter 33

### Chapter Notes

Thank you to everyone who left comments on the previous chapter! Like I said in the chapter note at the beginning, expect more artwork in the near future :)

#### **Log Entry #133.**

Progress has been made! At least I'm pretty sure progress has been made. The other Crystal Gems weren't getting anywhere, so I told them to do something else, somewhere else, while I talked to Peridot. I was fairly confident that my plan would work, but first I needed the place all to myself.

The Crystal Gems warped away and I was left alone with Peridot. When I opened the door, she immediately demanded her limb enhancers, but I firmly told her I could only offer the foot I took from her weeks ago. If I gave her the other limb enhancers then she would try to escape before I had the chance to tell her my sinister secret! My secret of doom, if you will.

I told her a modified version of the lie I was told by the Tallest all those years ago. I told her I was sent on a mission to conquer Earth. A planet so important to the Tallest's plans for galactic conquest that they sent Irk's greatest and most incredible Invader, to get the job done! ME! I was assigned the most dangerous planet to conquer. My minion GIR and I made a lot of progress until the Crystal Gems absolutely ruined everything. I had to pretend to be reformed while I amassed power, and got people on my side. Lapis Lazuli was one of those people.

The two of us were on a mission separate from the Earth mission when we encountered Peridot and Jasper. The Tallest did want me back, really, really badly but they knew I wouldn't want them to blow my cover. They're my biggest fans. We've gotta stop the Cluster, because if something or someone other than me destroys the Earth, I won't be an official Invader.

Peridot doubted that I could help her do anything about the Cluster and asked for her other limb enhancers. Then came the rain. I remember when I learned about the rain. It was a PAINFUL learning experience. The sound of thunder terrified me even before I knew what it was, and the terrible weakness I have to the downpour. Peridot has no such weaknesses, of course, but the bolt of thunder terrified her. It unnerved me too.

Peridot frantically reasoned that only the Cluster could make a sound like that, but I explained to her what was really going on, in a similar way to how Pearl explained it to Steven when he was

very little. Then she told me to go outside if the rain wasn't bad and I explained to her why that wasn't possible. I made sure to explain to her that as horrible as the downpour is to me, it has no effect on her. It's an innate weakness of mine. She accused me of LYING so I had to show her that I wasn't, to gain her trust.

I grabbed her and lifted her above my head to shelter me from the rain. She was a chaotic, terrified mess! I simply ignored her cries until they suddenly stopped. I put her down as soon as it stopped raining, and I prepared myself to take a hit but there was none. Instead I received a thank you from Peridot. What a nice team building exercise. Not that she's a part of any team, but she has to BELIEVE that she is.

I couldn't help but notice that when she's not trying to destroy us all, she actually isn't all that hideous. I don't LIKE HER but I guess I don't hate her as much as I did. Maybe it's because I don't see Peridot as a major threat without her limb enhancers. Or maybe it's because she finally made up her mind and decided to tell me about the Cluster.

...

Zim, signing off.

### **Log Entry #134.**

SO! The Cluster isn't coming. That's great! Except no it's not, because the Cluster is ALREADY here. It's been in the core of the planet for thousands of years, before Peridot was even created. She told me everything I needed to know in the Kindergarten. Yes, the very same place she shot me in the face. She keeps a backup of her logs there. I wonder how many log entries she has.

I didn't give Peridot her limb enhancers, instead I carried her around as she explained the Cluster to me. At the end of the Gem War, after it became clear that Earth wasn't a viable colony to mass-incubate Gems, the Diamond Authority decided to go in another direction. The fusion monsters? They were simply prototypes for the Cluster, a forced Gem fusion buried underneath the Earth composed of MILLIONS of Gem shards. We can't let the Cluster take it's physical form, or else it'll grow BIGGER THAN THE EARTH ITSELF!!!!

As I carried her back to the Warp Pad, Peridot exclaimed that I was all the help she would need in stopping the Cluster after gathering information on Earth for so many years. Hearing her say that did wonders for me, but deep down I know the two of us alone don't stand a chance against the Cluster. I tried to tell her that sometimes Invaders are forced to team up with their enemies, but



she's as reluctant and stubborn as I was back in the day!

To make matters worse, I single-handedly saved her from a horde of Gem mutants that began to crowd around us! Peridot was giddy to see me so strong and dragged me to the Warp Pad so we could get to work.

...

Zim, signing off.

### **Log Entry #135.**

Peridot has decided to tell the Crystal Gems about the Cluster, but only after she caused mayhem, the sheer destruction being comparable to the destruction I caused during my "cringe phase." She didn't cause the damage deliberately. Still caused it though.

I left Peridot to her own devices in the barn, my HOME! That was my mistake. I assumed she would form a plan to prevent the Cluster from emerging while I thought of a way to convince her that we need the involvement of the Crystal Gems. For a moment I thought "maybe we DON'T need the involvement of the Gems." Ridiculous, I know, but Peridot was reluctant to involve the Crystal Gems when I suggested we do so, because she believed the two of us could stop it together. And for a moment, I fooled myself into believing that with my knowledge of Earth and Peridot's knowledge of the Cluster, we could save the Earth without getting Steven and the Crystal Gems involved.

Instead of forming a plan to prevent the Cluster from emerging, Peridot was still determined to get off the planet using MY Irken technology. Oh okay, it wasn't MY Irken technology, it was Tak's technology. Pearl didn't just attempt to build a spaceship while I was gone she also began repairs on Tak's ship! Tak's ship was in my house all along! I was wondering what was underneath the tarp.

ANYHOW! Peridot was excited at the prospect of flying in an advanced ship, and offered to fly me to Irk so long as I returned her equipment to her. Before I could say anything, she asked if I wanted to sit in the driver's seat. It had been a while since I sat in the cockpit of an Irken ship, so I said yes, yes I did. As Peridot climbed on top of the ship, she commented that if we put our heads together we could get it flying before the Cluster emerged.

I stressed to her that I didn't want to run away from the Cluster before it emerged, I wanted to stop it from emerging at ALL! It was then that the ship trapped me in wires. That wasn't Peridot's doing, it was TAK'S! Almost Tak, not quite Tak. A downloaded personality interface that Peridot unintentionally reactivated. The ship's AI waited for me to get inside the ship, a clever girl. Eh, ship. As soon as I was bound with the tentacles it started to run toward a cesspool located in the city Tak kept her equipment to hollow out Earth's core. Also, a side note, I know I said I was gonna protect Earth but that town is so DISGUSTING.

I gave Peridot a good shouty rant on the way there. She maintained that this was only a minor setback, because we could replace Tak's personality with a copy of our own. Tak's ship ignored that comment and instead started monologuing when we got to the cesspool. The ship gave a speech about how the Tallest wanted to get rid of me, how I was a banished food service drone, how I was defective, it was all TREMENDOUSLY annoying. Right before I fell to my watery grave, I admitted that everything the ship said was true. Peridot was very betrayed and angry but she had to learn the truth about me eventually. More importantly, the ship needed to know that if it killed me, the ship was going to be destroyed when the Cluster emerged, with no chance of ever seeing Tak again.

It's a good thing the ship doesn't know that Lapis killed Tak. At least I think she was killed, the girl survived the vacuum of space so she could still be alive for all I know. Either way, the ship decided to not let me fall, in the hopes of being repaired by Peridot and I after the current crisis is averted. Maybe Tak is alive, maybe she's not, but the ship won't find out unless it lets me do my thing.

Tak's ship then allowed us to get inside, though it didn't like having Peridot's butt inside. It was an uncomfortable trip to the Crystal Temple. The only reason Peridot is going to tell the Crystal Gems about the Cluster is because now she doesn't want to talk to me.

...

Zim, signing off.

### **Log Entry #136.**

Peridot asked for my assistance with a presentation meant to illustrate the Cluster's formation to the Crystal Gems. I asked if the puppet show was necessary but she stressed that "the Cluster's formation needed to be illustrated in a simple way. These clods would have never understood without my visual aids!" HER visual aids, like I didn't help her make the Cluster puppet. It's OURS.

Peridot didn't want to talk to me after the puppet show was over. That was fine because Pearl is just as smart as Peridot and SHE wanted to talk to me. I don't want to spend time with Peridot, I just wanted the praise, but it wasn't even REAL praise and admiration. She didn't praise the real me, so her praise was stupid and bad.

Pearl and I decided that we needed to build a drilling machine to reach the Earth's core and stop the Cluster. I suggested we build the drill out of scrap laying around in the barn but Peridot didn't want to go back in the barn. Instead she destroyed various possessions in the beach house searching for parts to build our machine. I had to carry her by force to the barn.

When we arrived at the barn, Pearl was amazed to find Tak's ship talking. I got her up to speed. Before I could offer her the affirmation and praise she DESERVES for repairing such an advanced vehicle in my absence, Peridot decided to interject.

Peridot initially assumed that I built the ship, she didn't know that it belonged to someone else until recently and she never would've imagined a Pearl repaired it. Pearl even got it to fly one time! I know that Pearls are supposed to be "common" on the Gem Homeworld but the Pearl I know is AMAZING. 99% of the time.

I finally had enough of Peridot when she accused me of trying to insult her intelligence more than I already had by lying to her. Pearl was angry at Peridot for obvious reasons. So an argument ensued, but before it could come to blows Steven suggested that we should host a competition. And not just any competition, a ROBOT competition. My favorite! Amethyst likened the competition to a wrestling handicap match, that's a match type where two allied wrestlers compete against one. Peridot said she could build a better robot on her own than the two of us could working together.

Peridot cheated, though. The little goblin had help from Tak's ship! The ship doesn't LIKE Peridot but it HATES me. So it was Pearl and myself vs Peridot and Tak, or more accurately Pearl and myself vs Peridot and the Tak A.I. that altered it's configuration to resemble Peridot. Minimoose said it was allowed, because Peridot had already highly customized the craft.

After Peridot and I finished constructing our robot, Steven introduced the Robolympics: a series of challenges presided over by Steven and Minimoose. Various aspects of our machines were put to the test, everything from balance to projectile strength. It ended with a tie meaning no one was the natural leader. I admit I wanted to rub a victory in Peridot's face, but I didn't refuse to accept the outcome like Peridot did!

In Peridot's eyes Pearl was inherently beneath her and I was no better as a defective. If Peridot was never going to believe a word we said, then that meant we had to SHOW her how awesome we

were. Four of the greatest engineering minds on planet Earth resulted in two of the most impressive robot's anyone's ever SEEN! OUR BATTLE WAS LEGENDARY!!

I wish Pearl won the fight, not because I wanted a victory but because I wanted Peridot to lose. I fell out of the robot when Peridot's mech shoved the back, so it wouldn't have been MY victory anyway. Despite declaring herself the winner, I could tell Peridot didn't FEEL like a winner when the other Gems stood behind her. Later, while we were cleaning up the aftermath Peridot confronted Pearl, not to angrily ask why she wasn't leading the project but to compliment Pearl. They're working together. Well I suppose that means Peridot is willing to work alongside me, right?

...

Zim, signing off.

## Chapter 34

### Chapter Notes

I'm glad that I've been able to post a new chapter every week so far. Now that it's summer I have the time to write whenever I want, and I really want to write these chapters! This batch of Peridot episodes is great and it's also fun adding some original content here and there. This chapter is centered around both the Too Far episode and bits of the Log Date 7 15 2 episode. Log Date 7 15 2 aired after Message Received but chronologically a lot of it took place before It Could've Been Great and Message Received! I just think it would be neat if Zim wrote about some events before Steven finds out about them later in the show :)

### Log Entry #137.

Peridot records all her log entries. I write all mine on a datapad. All Invaders are given datapads. They're used as notebooks, day planners, sketch pads, and plenty else! Alright, okay. I'm not going to write a log entirely about how I write the logs. I COULD do that, but the log would get tremendously boring.

Peridot's logs aren't boring. I gave her the tape recorder device she uses to record the log entries as somewhat of an apology gift. You know, for keeping her limb enhancers which contain her previous logs. I shouldn't HAVE to apologize to her, because Peridot and I both know that she would shoot me in the face as soon as she got the chance, but Steven thought it would be a nice gesture. She didn't even say thanks, she just took it from me and let out a strangled growl/whine hybrid.

Peridot has stopped calling Steven "the Steven". She initially refused to call him by his name but Minimoose threatened her with violence if she kept calling him that, so she calls him by his name now. I used to call Steven all sorts of things when I first knew him. A filthy worm child, filthy Earth boy, Earth larvae, etc etc.

If Steven thought Peridot refusing to call him by his name was rude, what would he think about Peridot shoving his dad off a roof? It was the roof of the barn. Greg was repairing it when Peridot wanted to find out if he could fly. Peridot could've just ASKED ME if humans can fly. Greg could've seriously been hurt if Garnet wasn't there to catch him from his fall.

Garnet is right, Peridot still has a lot to learn about the Earth. She could always ask me to share the information I've gathered over the years, but she's not impressed with me anymore. I understand

her, because I lived a similar life, but she doesn't understand why I'm a double defective. A former Irken Invader turned banished food service drone who quit being banished, arrived at Earth and became a rebel. It's true I lied to Peridot from the very beginning, but the lies have ended!

I have a new idea. Why don't I explain to Peridot exactly how I became the Irken she knows today? Maybe THEN she would respect me. I don't want her to be my friend, I only want her to take me SERIOUSLY!! Peridot acknowledges Pearl as a competent technician, which she is, so why can't Peridot see me for the WONDER I AM??

...

Zim, signing off.

### **Log Entry #138.**

Peridot may be smart in some ways but she's REALLY STUPID in some others. It's been three days since she agreed to start working with Pearl and she still needs to remind herself that Pearl has an intellect at all, by rewinding her tape recorder and replaying her logs. As if that weren't enough she asked Garnet, the leader of the Crystal Gems, to unfuse. Garnet is a feeling, she'll NEVER end- - I mean, she sang a WHOLE SONG about it and everything.

Peridot was leashed to a fence for her comment, and I snickered at her pitiful attempt to reach for a nearby microwave while the Gems were working on the drill. Pearl then told me she needed my help finding tungsten, a rare metal that will be used on the outer shell for the drill. It has the highest melting point of ALL the elements! Steven didn't know what tungsten looks like and Amethyst made a tongue joke, because of course she did, so I helped her find it.

When we found the tungsten, it became apparent that the drill was near completion. We had almost everything we needed to complete the drill, everything except for a magnetron and a drill head. And there's a magnetron in every microwave! All we really needed was a drill head. Peridot suggested we get one from an Injector at the Kindergarten.

There's only one Injector remaining on Earth, actually. I've made sure to destroy every single Injector since finding out about their existence years ago. Not for any particular reason, just because I could.

Of course, Peridot wasn't going to just go to the Kindergarten without a chaperone! She had not one, not two, not three, but FOUR chaperones!! Steven, Amethyst, Minimoose, and myself. It was our job to keep her in line.

Peridot vented about her frustrations with the situation she was in. Amethyst found Peridot's commentaries on Earth quite entertaining, and so did I, until Peridot began mocking the Crystal Gems. She called Garnet two clods, she called Steven an abomination, she called me an abject failure, and she said if Minimoose was created by me then he must be a failure too. Amethyst laughed it up, until SHE was the one who got mocked, THEN it suddenly wasn't funny anymore.

Peridot didn't MEAN to insult Amethyst, she was complimenting Amethyst in her Peridot sort of way. By Peridot's logic, Amethyst outranks everyone on our team and we should all listen to her. She even called Amethyst a strong, singular, fully-functional soldier, which is the highest praise she's given any Crystal Gem. I knew as soon as Peridot started mocking the Crystal Gems that Amethyst was going to get hurt, I just didn't know how.

She did it by calling Amethyst... defective. I've been called and mocked as such MANY times by Irkens trying to kill me. I'm the most infamous defective Irken in the WHOLE universe. But I've been aware of that for years and years and years. Amethyst didn't know that she's a defective Gem, that she's "gemetically wrong" as Peridot put it. We have the drill head now. Amethyst used her whip to slice off the drill head, we're back at the barn, that's all that matters.

...

Zim, signing off.

### **Log Entry #139.**

Pearl was elated to use the same technology that started this mess to fix it. Pure irony indeed. Amethyst was pretty much the opposite of elated. I tried to cheer Amethyst up by reminiscing about my own commentaries, but it was unsuccessful. She wanted an apology from Peridot, and if Peridot couldn't even take the time to notice that Amethyst's feelings were hurt, then she would simply proceed to give Peridot the cold-shoulder for the remainder of our truce agreement.

Peridot eventually did notice Amethyst's new coldness, and she reacted in frustration. Pearl commented on her little temper tantrum and I offered to work on the drill alone, while Steven held Peridot's leash. Everything would've been... FINE if Peridot hadn't started WHINING. At this point, I had enough of Peridot's GARBAGE. I grabbed her and forced her to take back what she

said about Amethyst. I threatened to rain DOOM upon her, but it was at that moment Steven pointed out a malfunction in the drill head.

The drill began spinning, and I tried to stop it as the drill head started moving towards Amethyst. Peridot JUMPED to push Amethyst out of the drill's way, saving her life. Very good, I'm glad Amethyst wasn't hurt. The drill being destroyed is the opposite of good, though. That's HORRIBLE!! The one time I DON'T want to destroy one of those stupid Injectors, and I end up destroying it anyway. Red DID say once that everything I touch gets destroyed.

Steven helped me up but I didn't want to see the look on Pearl's face when she found out I destroyed our only drill, so I quickly went back to the barn. Peridot must think I'm even more of an abject failure than she ALREADY did. Well that's just FINE!!!! I DON'T NEED HER TO SEE HOW AMAZING I AM! I KNOW I'm amazing. I'll just find SOME OTHER WAY to travel through Earth's core. Somehow.

...

Zim, signing off.

### **Log Entry #140.**

Man. I gave up on trying to tell Peridot about my character development. In fact I gave up on doing pretty much anything. For a moment I told myself I could build a drill head, but I suddenly lost my energy. I took to the couch eating snacks the rest of the afternoon.

I was lying on the couch in my magenta bathrobe and matching slippers when Peridot found me. I asked her what she wanted, and she surprised me by saying she wanted to check up on me. Apparently Peridot went through some character development of her own while I was in the barn and she actually made an apology to Amethyst, an apology which Amethyst accepted. I had been despairing at my failure until Peridot replayed one of the logs on her tape recorder and held it out to me. When her log entry began with her calling us all defective I didn't have high hopes, but then she said she's no better. That she's still learning about Earth and wants to understand more about it.

I was in a gaze. Before I could even sit up she pointed at the TV and asked me what meaningless distraction I was filling the void of my life with. It was Camp Pining Hearts. I know I promised to wait until Lapis got back but my mopiness got the better of me. I needed something to fill the void in my life, like Peridot said, before the mopiness DOOMED me forever.



Peridot saved me from the mopiness I was becoming by choosing to sit down to watch Camp Pining Hearts with me!! We've been watching the same episode for THREE DAYS. I promised I wouldn't watch any new episodes until Lapis got back but this is a really good episode so I don't mind watching the same plot over and over again. Peridot made her OWN SHIPPING CHART!! I'm so excited to COMPARE and finally do some CONTRASTING!! Lapis and I both ship Paulette and Percy, but PERIDOT ships Percy and Pierre. PIERRE!!!! She's very fun to argue with.

Oh, I didn't just introduce her to human entertainment, I also introduced her to the wonderful world of appearance modifiers that aren't melded to your body! I've never put on shorts, or shirts, which is what Peridot calls shorts. They look much better on her than they ever would on me.

ANYHOW! Peridot has asked me to help her better understand Earth. To do that I think I'll start by telling her the story of how I became a Crystal Gem. At first I only wanted to impress her, but now I think I just want to spend time with her. My PAK brain is telling me I need to work harder than EVER before while my organic brain is telling me I need to feel good again. After everything that's happened, I would like that. I would like that a lot.

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Zim, signing off.

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